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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-111 *9 June 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan's al-'Anani on Results of U.S. Talks

JN0806115694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Meetings of the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee were concluded in Washington yesterday evening. Addressing media and press correspondents on the results of these meetings, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, said:

[Begin recording] First, one of the most important results is that the Jordanian and Israeli sides were able—through the meetings held in connection with the meeting of the tripartite economic committee—to reach a detailed agenda on the issue of the Jordanian territory.

Within this framework, it has been agreed to form a committee whose task is to come to the region to demarcate the Jordanian borders in accordance with what was agreed in the joint agenda signed last September. Thus, we have reiterated a basic principle; namely, Jordanian borders will turn from cease-fire borders to internationally-recognized borders. This affirms Jordan's territorial integrity, thereby ending any ambitions toward these territories and safeguarding the Jordanian entity.

We, of course, agreed on two basic principles: The first principle is that we should return to the [British] mandate agreement on border demarcation; and second, these borders must be demarcated on the ground.

The second important dimension reached is related to water. We know that the issue of water is a very sensitive issue for Jordan. It is also directly linked with the rights of Jordanian sovereignty. Israel used to take from the Jordanian waters in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers; that is, it takes more than its share agreed on in the international and regional agreements organizing this relationship. Therefore, another committee will be formed to fairly redistribute water in harmony with Jordan's rights in this regard.

Also, it has been agreed that the Jordan Valley project will be viewed as a full-blown project, according to which there will be discussions for developing its infrastructure. Big projects that will be discussed later will be launched there in the future. That is, we have endorsed the launching of some studies that will pave the way for the launching of big development projects in the Jordan Valley. You may recall, in particular, that the most important project in this regard is the desalination project, or the project of extending a canal linking the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. This project is a Jordanian plan and proposal in the first place, and came in response to Israeli plans to build a canal linking the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea.

Regarding the talks held within the context of the tripartite committee, it has been agreed that the U.S. side will prepare a paper on the Jordan Valley, and the projects planned to be carried out there. However, this effort will be confined to the realm of studies at present. This is because the implementation of such projects is unthinkable before an agreement is reached on the issue of borders.

With respect to economic issues, particularly in light of the agreement signed between the PLO and the Israeli side on the issue of banking and trade, the Jordanian side explained the impact of this agreement on the Jordanian economy. This is because this agreement somewhat restricts the freedom to export Jordanian commodities to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli side agreed that it is possible to expand the prospects for Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories.

Additionally, it has been agreed that Jordan will be informed of any future plans or proposals, let us say, to issue a Palestinian currency so that Jordan may adopt measures that could protect its currency. Jordan will be given sufficient time to take such measures.

According to the agenda signed, it transpired that some issues can be discussed at the trilateral level. That is why a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli economic committee was called on to meet to discuss some issues at the trilateral level, to discuss them and resolve them appropriately.

In a nutshell, these are the most important results reached. In my view, these results are very important for Jordan. This is because they protect and contribute to safeguarding Jordan's identity, demographic makeup, and territorial integrity. [end recording]

U.S. Plan for Jordanian-Israeli Projects Reported

JN0806144994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Next month Washington will launch a working plan to carry out economic projects between Jordan and Israel after these two countries have surmounted the most important obstacle to the progress of their bilateral negotiations, by forming a committee in Washington yesterday to demarcate joint borders. The committee will rotate meetings in Jordan and Israel starting in July.

The U.S. plan is based on two studies; the first is Jordanian and the other Israeli, which were presented in Washington. Washington will deduce the joint points included in the two studies to formulate a plan that is acceptable to both sides in order to be discussed by the tripartite committee in Washington next month.

The Jordanian file includes, in particular, the two seas canal plan, to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea, while the Israeli plan speaks about linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea.

This Jordanian plan enjoys Washington's support, which considers it more realistic and useful, and closer to implementation.

Moreover, Amman no longer opposes the holding of the international economic conference on its territory. It will be held here next year, after a preparatory conference has been held in Morocco in November.

These developments come at a time when Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali is preparing to reshuffle his cabinet today in which he will introduce approximately 10 deputies. This will allow the participation of the legislative council in the decisions of the executive branch at a time when Jordan has expressed its readiness to sign a border agreement with Israel without waiting for the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Seeks News on al-Jihad-al-Tufayli Contacts

NC0906082094 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p 7

[Text] Egyptian security agencies are trying to gather information about meetings between a delegation of Egypt's al-Jihad Organization and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah. These agencies have obtained information that several Egyptian "Afghans" [Egyptians who fought alongside the Afghan Mujahidin against Soviets], who were expelled from Pakistan, have arrived in Lebanon and are now under Hizballah's protection.

Arab Broadcasting Union Meeting Opens in Tunis

LD0706135294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and at the invitation of the Tunisian radio and television company, the 17th session of the General Assembly of the Arab Broadcasting Union convened in Tunis today. The meeting was chaired by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia who made a speech in which he conveyed to participants greetings from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his good wishes for the success of the meeting.

He stressed that in the Tunisia of the new era, proceeding from awareness of the importance of joint inter-Arab action, we are seeking to host any inter-Arab activity, particularly those aimed at finding ways of fruitful cooperation and entrenching concord between the Arab states.

It should be underscored that at its morning meeting the General Assembly of the Arab Broadcasting Union elected Abdelhafidh El Hargem, director-general of the Tunisian radio and television company, as chairman of the Union and of its Executive Bureau.

ABU Session Concludes

LD0906002294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a cable from the participants in the 17th session of the Arab Broadcasting Union [ABU] general assembly held in Tunis on 7 and 8 June 1994, in which they expressed their deepest gratitude for his agreeing that this session be held under his patronage and care. [passage omitted]

Participants have blessed the unanimous election of Tunisia for the chairmanship of the next session of the ABU and expressed confidence that the organization will secure more professional gains in response to the aspiration of Arab audiences.

The 17th session ended in Tunis last evening, which was held at the invitation of the Tunisian radio and TV enterprise. Held under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the session was attended by representatives of radio and TV broadcasting corporations from Jordan, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen.

At its opening session, the general assembly elected Mr. Abdelhafidh El Hargem, director general of the Tunisian radio and TV enterprise, as chairman of the assembly and of the executive bureau of the union. At the end of the session, Mr. Raouf El Basti from Tunisia was reelected director general of ABU for another four-year term.

Islamic Affairs

Saudi Finance Minister Addresses IDB Symposium

LD0606202394 Riyadh SPA in English 1932 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 6, SPA—The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, who is also the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the IDB's [Islamic Development Bank] board of governors, opened on Monday [6 June] a symposium on the fringes of the 151st meeting of the bank's executive managers.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Aba-al-Khayl, on behalf of the Saudi Government, welcomed the participants and emphasized the steadfast determination of the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to support all Islamic joint action projects.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is honoured by the Almighty Allah to house the two holy harams, has been sparing no effort to reinforce the Islamic solidarity, cooperation and cohesion between all Moslems of the world with noble and welfare initiatives which led to the creation of a number of Islamic organizations," he said.

"Moreover, the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not merely confined to the establishment of the existing Islamic organizations, but is also continuing to extend the unlimited moral and material support to these organizations which are located in the kingdom or elsewhere," Aba-al-Khayl said.

He affirmed that the kingdom will continue to extend whatever necessary support is required for the activities of the IDB (Islamic Development Bank) which was set up to dedicate cooperation between Islamic states.

The finance and national economy minister expressed deep satisfaction over the excellent performance of the IDB as a leading Islamic economic institution and expressed confidence that the bank would realise aspirations of member states.

Aba-al-Khayl said the paid capital of the IDB has increased to dlrs 8.4 billion from two billion dollars and the number of its member states now totals 47 with the joining of a number of Central Asian states.

He cited the necessity of maintaining the firm financial performance of the IDB.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Osama Faqih, president of the IDB welcomed the participants and spotlighted the great achievements accomplished by the IDB in the framework of the noble objectives for which it was established.

Praising the distinguished financing policies being pursued by the IDB, Faqih expressed delight that the bank had managed to develop successful financing policies that suit the Islamic laws in all banking dealings.

For this purpose, he said, the Islamic Institute for Research and Training was set up in 1993 to make adaptation of modern financing techniques.

He said the bank is giving priority for financing commodities and products of Islamic origin and expressed confidence that the bank will continue to develop its methods to extend services for the entire Islamic world.

IDB Session Ends

LD0806215594 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 8, SPA—The council of executive directors of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) ended its 151st session here today under the chairmanship of Osama Faqih, the IDB president.

During its session, the council approved the bank's general budget, the independent annual budget for its programmes, the budget and plan for the Islamic research and training institute, an affiliate of the bank for 1415 ah [Arabic year from June 1994-June 1995].

The council approved a total financial lending of nearly 83.5 million U.S. dollars, which would benefit eight member states of the bank and three Islamic societies in non-member countries.

Palestinian Affairs

'Shadow Government' Planned in East Jerusalem

JN0906113494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 29

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian National Authority [PNA] official has said the PNA has decided to form a Palestinian shadow government in east Jerusalem to face the recent Israeli measures.

The PNA minister, who asked not to be named, asserted that "there will be no official announcement of the government" that will run Palestinian economic and social activities in Jerusalem.

According to the Palestinian source, the PNA "has stopped short of announcing the formation of the shadow government and announcing officially the creation of a special ministry for Jerusalem affairs in order not to embarrass the Israeli government or weaken its domestic political position." However, the recent Israeli statements on the future of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and the moves under way to pass legislation against these institutions "could prompt the Palestinian leadership to adopt steps to escalate the situation and prevent the Israeli government from changing the status quo of the city to weaken the Palestinian negotiating stance" before starting the final negotiations that will determine the fate of the city, as the Palestinian minister put it.

The Palestinian official told QUDS PRESS the shadow government, which could be headed by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, will comprise several ministries, including "social affairs, housing, tourism and antiquities, education, sports and youth, health, and awqaf" in addition to any other ministries the PNA thinks are necessary to consolidate the Palestinian presence in the city. The official added that "the activities of these ministries will not be carried out in public unless the Israeli authorities adopt measures against Palestinian institutions in east Jerusalem."

The Palestinian official further said the government's activities include renovating houses and supporting other activities that contribute to intensifying the Palestinian presence "to bolster the negotiating position" of the PNA. The official asserted that the PNA has decided to hold consultations with the Palestinian opposition forces in order to coordinate action to preserve the city of Jerusalem. The Palestinian minister added that "political views could be different but we are agreed on the need to maintain the Arab presence in Jerusalem." The source did not reveal when the consultations will begin which, he said, "might not be publicized in the

beginning, taking into consideration the political position of the Palestinian forces."

'Ashrawi To Head Autonomy Audit Committee

TA0806160294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi asserted today that Israel has been grossly violating the agreement with the PLO and curtailing the freedom of action of the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. This gross violation creates facts on the ground prior to the discussions about the permanent arrangement, 'Ashrawi said. In a news conference she called today, Hanan 'Ashrawi declared that the Independent Palestinian Committee for Civil Rights headed by her will be the comptroller of the autonomy and the Palestinian state. 'Ashrawi will fill this role after she received the approval of Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestine National Council. Our correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports:

[Begin recording] [Lifshitz] Following the media and parliamentary uproar in Israel over Shim'on Peres' letter on the issue of Jerusalem, it is interesting to see how things look from the other side. 'Ashrawi, a Palestinian leader in the territories and the former spokesperson of the negotiating team with Israel, believes that the measures taken by Rabin to curtail the activities of the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem constitute a violation of the agreement with the PLO.

['Ashrawi, in English] I think that Israel is violating the agreement by trying to deal unilaterally with postponed issues. I think these are illegal. By law, Jerusalem, East Jerusalem, is part of the occupied territories. No amount of unilateral annexation, or manipulation, or distortion of the law by Israel is going to change that fact.

[Lifshitz translates the above and continues] It further came out in the news conference that 'Ashrawi will be the Myriam Ben-Porat of the Palestinian autonomy. She presented the Independent Palestinian Committee for Civil Rights which will be the comptroller of the newly-established Palestinian Authority and, according to her, also of the future Palestinian state. This, with the approval of 'Arafat and the endorsement of the PLO institutions and the Palestinian Authority. This committee will not confine its work only to the boundaries of the autonomy, she said.

['Ashrawi, in English] We are not restricted to one phase, like Gaza-Jericho, or one geographic location. We will deal with Palestinian issues throughout the Palestinian territories.

[Lifshitz translates the above and continues] We will operate everywhere, including Judaea and Samaria, 'Ashrawi said. The new body has the right to investigate irregularities, access information, and monitor processes in the making. Already, it has approached senior PLO officials and managed to solve the problem of the property of absentees in Jericho.

By heading the audit committee—which, incidentally, will reside in East Jerusalem—'Ashrawi is probably saying that she has disqualified herself from being a member of any executive council of the autonomy. [end recording]

Sha'th Leaves for Donor States Meeting in Paris

NC0806123494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority Council, left Cairo for Paris this morning.

While in Paris, Dr. Sha'th will take part in the meeting of donor states which will discuss assistance for the Palestinian police and self-government authority. Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department, is leading the Palestinian delegation to the meeting.

'Arafat Reviews Peace Process With Egypt's Musa

LD0806200194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday met Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The meeting reviewed developments of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the means to consolidate it by speeding up reconstruction operations.

'Arafat Aide To Make First West Bank Visit Since '67

JN0906090794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 28

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Nabil 'Amr, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, will leave Amman today for the occupied Palestinian territories on his first visit since 1967.

'Amr said he will visit his relatives and hold contacts and consultations with Palestinian political forces and nationalist figures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to pursue efforts made last year to set up a Palestinian democratic grouping.

'Amr said this grouping is a developed formula of the initiative proposed by 116 Palestinian personalities from inside and outside the territories in a memorandum that called for enhancing democracy in the Palestinian arena inside and outside the territories.

'Amr added that this initiative does not conflict with the fact that he is a member of Fatah or with his official duties in the PLO.

'Amr worked as director general of Palestinian radios for 10 years, and then as a media adviser to the Palestinian president, and ambassador to the Soviet Union for five years.

Police Reportedly To Deploy in West Bank Mid-Jul

JN0806205594 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] A Palestinian police spokesman has said that Palestinian police forces will begin deploying in the occupied West Bank as of the middle of next month [as heard]. The required materials—arms and armored cars—are being prepared for the Palestinian police that will deploy in Hebron, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and other West Bank cities.

IDF Pursues Hamas Squad Into Gaza Autonomy

TA0806150094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[Excerpt] A few hours ago, terrorists opened fire at the hothouses of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip, but nobody was hurt. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit arrived on the scene and opened fire at the terrorists, who fled in two Peugeot 404's.

Last night, the IDF set out in hot pursuit of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist squad into the area of the autonomy. The three terrorists who opened fire at an IDF patrol fled in the direction of Rafah. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. During the pursuit, hundreds of local inhabitants gathered and threw stones at the soldiers in a bid to prevent them from catching the perpetrators. According to Palestinian sources, five local Palestinians were injured by IDF gunfire during this pursuit. [passage omitted]

Hamas Official Rules Out Forming Political Party

NC0806131894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Gaza, from Mustafa al-Sawwaf, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Press Office—Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, has stressed the need for postponing talks on forming a political party until things settle down and we can see how democratic the self-rule authority will be.

He said that the notion of forming an Islamic political party is good for presenting concepts from an Islamic perspective under the National Authority. But, he added, there are drawbacks, such as the need to obtain a permit from the Authority to set up such a party. This Authority has not been elected or established by the masses.

Al-Yazuri continued by saying that he is inclined to form an opposition front that includes all factions opposed to the agreement because this front, unlike a party, would not need a permit from the Authority. According to al-Yazuri, the Authority established by the agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo has conceded many Palestinian rights and there is nothing positive about it other than the return of the Palestinian police and deportees.

Al-Yazuri denied recent statements made by Major General Nasr Yusuf [commander of the Palestinian police] that the latter has contacted or met with Dr. al-Yazuri to discuss last week's incidents of kidnapping and killing agents. He stressed that he has no knowledge of such meetings or contacts, adding that this claim is baseless.

Habash: PFLP Will Not Resort to Violence First

NC0806130894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 18

[Text] Damascus, Ramallah, from Rashid Hilal—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stated that, despite its refusal to participate in the self-rule authority's security and executive establishments, the PFLP will remain among the masses and keep its establishments because it is part of the social fabric of Palestinian society and its social structure. He said that the PFLP will not take a negative stand toward the establishments that serve the citizens but will seek to improve them and develop their social and national acts and performance in a way that serves our policies and views while extending the necessary services to the citizens.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, Dr. Habash said that the way the Palestinian forces who reject the agreement will confront the Palestinian self-rule authority will not go outside the pragmatic forms which are now known to everyone—political, and media struggle. He added: These forms will remain valid and suitable even after the implementation of the agreement. Any change in these forms will remain within this framework and we will not deviate from it as a rule, unless the Palestinian authority resorts to violence against the masses and forces that reject the agreement. He stressed that he will not be the first to resort to violence.

Habash noted that the loopholes in the agreement and its inherent contradictions are not enough to bring it down, but action is needed to turn the slogan of foiling the agreement into a practical one. He said that the forces rejecting the agreement are determined to formalize their opposition through effective and influential popular, mass, and political actions.

Habash stressed that these forces will seriously work to complete the widely based national and Islamic front and rebuild the PLO on national, democratic, and struggle bases in accordance with the national program

and charter so as to allow as much participation as possible by most sectors of our people inside and outside the territories.

Discriminatory Housing Policy in Jerusalem Reported

NC0806132594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 18

[Report from Jerusalem]

[Text] A report by the Palestinian Information Center on Human Rights, affiliated with the Arab Studies Association, yesterday published statistics on the planning policy and the demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, as part of the extensive popular plan the center is launching against the demolition policy pursued by the Jerusalem Municipality.

The report estimates the number of Palestinian families who lack proper housing in East Jerusalem and who have been forced to live in shelters and tents, or in homes occupied by one or two other families, at 21,000.

According to the report, this is the direct result of the authority's policy of demolishing homes and expropriating lands and its discriminatory housing policy that restrict landowners' use of their lands.

The center provided documented facts revealing that over 210 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem have been demolished by the Israeli authorities for reasons related to construction licenses since 1986.

The report revealed that 50 Palestinian homes are being demolished in East Jerusalem every year. Of the total area of the city of East Jerusalem, which is 73,000 donums, 29,000 donums have been, or are waiting to be, expropriated soon to build Jewish settlements. Palestinians are allowed to build on 10,000 donums, while 35,000 donums are being left without planning, the report says.

According to the report, Palestinians have been licensed to build on 14 percent of East Jerusalem lands, on which Palestinians have already built homes. Buildings in Palestinian neighborhoods cannot exceed two stories, while those in Jewish suburbs rise as high as eight stories.

The report notes that Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem pay 26 percent of the cost of services provided by the municipality, although they received only 5 percent of these services. The property taxes ranged from 14 to 39.2 new shekels per square meter in 1994.

Illustrating the policy of discrimination against citizens, the report pointed out that the Israeli Government provided subsidized homes for 70,000 Jewish families in the settlements of East Jerusalem alone, against 555 for Palestinian families. The structural plan for Jerusalem reserves over half the area of East Jerusalem for Jewish settlements and institutions.

The report cites a sampling study by Dr. Bernard Sabila [name as transliterated], political science lecturer at Bethlehem University, that provided the following estimates of Palestinians who emigrated with their families since 1967:

- 16,917 have emigrated to other countries since 1967;
- 12,080 moved outside the limits of the municipality;
- 12,500 reside in north Jerusalem; and
- 7,630 were abroad prior to 1967 and accordingly never obtained Jerusalem identity cards.

Official on Detainees' Release, Electricity, Stamps

JN0806183994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] The Israeli-Palestinian Civil Committee is set to reconvene within two weeks to work out arrangements for the early empowerment of the rest of the civil departments in the West Bank. This was disclosed by Jamil al-Tarifi, coordinator general of the Palestinian civil authorities. I asked him about an Israeli proposal that a number of Palestinian prisoners be freed with the proviso that they are confined to the Gaza Strip until they serve out their terms, attorney al-Tarifi said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarifi] When it became clear that this was the intention of the Israeli Government, I was instructed late last night by President 'Arafat to reject the decision. The Cairo agreement calls for the release of 5,000 detainees, with the release of the rest to be negotiated later. There is nothing in the Cairo agreement to suggest that, once freed, the detainees should be confined to Gaza or Jericho, except in unusual cases; both the Israelis and we know what these are. The restrictive clause does not apply to all of the detainees. 'Arafat has instructed all agencies of the Palestinian authority in the occupied territory to reject the Israeli proposal. Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, who arrived from Amman yesterday, has been named as head of the Palestinian side to the joint Security Committee. He will address the issue at the negotiating table, God willing.

['Ubaydat] I asked attorney al-Tarifi whether a particular supplier has been contracted to feed Gaza with electricity?

[Al-Tarifi] A ship owned by a Canadian-Norwegian company is to dock at Gaza and feed the Strip with 100 megawatts. In the interim, our electricity needs will continue to be filled by the Israeli National Electricity Grid.

['Ubaydat] I asked al-Tarifi about the lack of stamps and postal orders and exit permits in the Post Office in the Jericho region.

[Al-Tarifi] Palestinian postage stamps are under production. [end recording]

Paper Examines Idea of PNA 'Panel of Jurors'

NC0806100994 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH IN Arabic 2 Jun p 3

[Article by Bashir al-Barghuti: "To Prevent Differences From Taking a Turn for the Worse"]

[Text] Difficulties and restrictions imposed by the Cairo agreement itself have started to emerge from the moment it was implemented. The Israeli side has thwarted the attempts to contain or bypass them. Not a single day passes without Israeli measures that aim to remind the Palestinian side of the limitations of its role and of its responsibility toward what Israel regards as its security interest.

It would be an extreme simplification to suppose that all the problems could be solved in closed rooms without this resulting in measures in Gaza and Jericho that would affect the Palestinian citizen and limit his freedom and his ability to pursue his ambitions toward his national objectives.

I do not think that anyone in our country or our citizens abroad considers the Cairo agreement to be a fulfillment of their national objectives or their liberation from the yoke of occupation. The occupation laws remain, and changing or annulling them depends on the Israeli side's approval. The streets of Gaza and Jericho are open for the armed settlers as well as for the Israeli army. None of the clauses of the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement contain any reference to the possibility of developing it outside the context of the concepts of the Israeli Labor Party's program, specifically to the concepts of the Jordan River as Israel's security border, of withdrawal from the populated areas, and of keeping the settlements, or the majority of them.

Therefore, it would be naive to suppose that the antioccupation activities will stop because the Cairo agreement has been signed or because the Palestinian police have started to patrol the streets of Jericho and the Strip.

While acknowledging that no one wants internal fighting or the fabrication of problems with the Palestinian police, we should not forget the presence of the Israeli side and the duties imposed by the Cairo agreement on the Palestinian side toward the antioccupation activities. These might, unintentionally, lead to friction and tension. We started to feel some of its aspects in the past few days, such as the firing on the Jewish synagogue in Jericho, the arrest of armed agents in the area, and the Palestinian side's compulsion to hand them over to the Israeli police after showing Israeli identity cards. Similar incidents took place in Gaza, such as the killing of two persons accused of being Israeli agents.

We hope that these incidents will remain very limited and that they will be dealt with patiently and wisely. But the nature of the exceptional situation in which the Cairo agreement has placed us makes it a situation fraught with unhappy and possibly grave expectations.

Hence, matters should not be left to chance. The literal implementation of the Cairo agreement in an area where armed men from the Israeli army and settlers move alongside the Palestinian police and other Palestinian parties will increase the dangers of friction. Throwing just one stone might create a major problem. Such problems could also arise in cases where a Palestinian citizen commits a security violation outside the Palestinian police's jurisdiction, in which case the latter would be required to arrest and hand him over to the Israeli police.

Should such cases happen—and we hope they will not—they will then be a source of tension, more doubts, and unease. The important thing is that this should not develop into friction between Palestinian citizens and that the differences should remain political and expressed democratically and in a civilized manner. This necessitates the presence of a Palestinian body that includes supporters and opponents or members acceptable to these two sides. It should comprise independent Palestinian figures with political and social weight who are respected by all. The body would constitute "a panel of jurors" that will rule on differences between the national forces and prevent these differences from developing into some sort of fighting that will only benefit the enemies of our people.

It is a great mistake to suppose that administrative tools alone are enough to resolve all possible serious problems. The presence of a "panel of jurors" will not harm the Palestinian authority, especially as it has already accepted a Palestinian-Israeli civilian committee for cooperation and coordination that monitors the activities of its departments and the extent of their adherence to the agreement. Since this is the case, why should there not be "a panel of jurors" from outside the Palestinian authority that can monitor the extent of this authority's adherence to the conditions of national unity and the Palestine National Council's resolutions, for the sole purpose of preventing differences from assuming grave dimensions that will not be in anyone's interest?

Algeria

Islamic Party Joins in Operations Against FIS

PM0906095094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1,4

[Unattributed report: "An Islamic Party Takes Up Arms Against the Salvation Front"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Some members of the Algerian Transitional National Council members are trying to collect signatures on a petition calling for the release of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders and an end to the state of emergency. The deputies trying to promote the petition say that the aim is to "support dialogue and national reconciliation." AL-HAYAH has learned that the party most opposed to that petition is the Islamic "Jihad and Unity Front" which is represented in the National Council by Nouari Bousnan (aged 41) and Kerghali Saeed (40). Sources close to that front have told AL-HAYAH that its leader has formed an armed battalion for combating "terrorism" (the word used by the authorities to describe the Salvation Front) in the province of El Bouira (120 km east of the capital), active in Rabta mountains and in Boufadil [as transliterated] in the hills of the Kadiria District. The same sources confirm that the security forces have reinforced that battalion with some soldiers and that the initial results of the combing operations "have been encouraging." According to Algerian observers, this is the first time an Islamic party has participated in military operations alongside the Algerian security forces.

Religious Affairs Ministry Reports Imam Killed

LD0906090494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Religious Affairs announced last night that Imam Mohamed Benchaa, a 44-year-old married man with four children, of Koualmia village in the Lameria district of Ain Timouchent Province, has been killed. [passage omitted]

Zeroual Meets Libyan Envoy, Praises Relations

LD0806225394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] President Liamine Zeroual, president of the Republic of Algeria, received the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria and charged him with conveying his brotherly greetings to the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi].

President Liamine Zeroual once more renewed Algeria's siding and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust measures.

During his reception of the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria at the end of his tour of duty, the Algerian president said he was proud of the depth of the fraternal relations which connected the sons of the one Arab people in Algeria and those of the Great Jamahiriyah, praising the historic stance of the Libyan Arab people with the fraternal Algerian people at the time of liberation revolution in Algeria.

Egypt

Brotherhood Members Said To Plan Regime's Overthrow

NC0906082294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Counselor 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf-al-Din, Public Attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, yesterday decided to remand in custody members of a Muslim Brotherhood organization for 15 days pending investigations. He ordered the items seized with the members to be sent for examination by forensic and laboratory experts.

Security men have arrested 11 members of the organization in several governorates. They include doctors, education experts, furniture dealers, students, and civil servants. Investigations conducted by District Attorney Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi and Hisham Badawi with the organization members have uncovered secret cells formed by the organization in four governorates. According to the investigations, the new organization is an extension of the "Salsabil" organization uncovered a few years ago. The prosecutors charged members of the new organization with forming a consultative council, planning the overthrow of the regime, and preparing antiregime organizational documents and leaflets. The members used computers to keep information, and computer discs have been seized. The defendants informed officials on the remaining members of the organization in the other governorates. The prosecutors charged them with joining a secret organization that seeks to overthrow the regime.

Muslim Brotherhood Figure Disavows Violence

NC0906084894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 6

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur by Khalid Sayyid Ahmad; place and date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] Is the Muslim Brotherhood a lawful group?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood group has been in existence and operating since 1928. A decision dissolving the group was issued in 1948, but was revoked in 1951. In January 1954, a new decision dissolving the group was issued and most of its members were arrested. Later, we got out of prison and resumed our activity, which was tantamount of a revocation of that decision. Since then, no decision has been made to dissolve the group. Now the government claims that the group has been dissolved, and a lawsuit on the matter is still

pending before an Egyptian court. Despite all this, we are a lawful group that promotes God's words by reason, not violence.

[Ahmad] How do you view the issue of violence and extremism?

[Mashhur] We do not believe in violence, because it distorts Islam's image. We have emphasized this position several times. Violence is a disease that can afflict a society. I can confirm that none of the Muslim Brotherhood members have taken part in any acts of violence. We did not even try to seek retaliation or vengeance against those who practiced violence against us while in detention. Although we reject the use of violence, we must not hold the youth who use violence fully responsible. The state shares in a major part of the responsibility. It has permitted a group of communists to distort the image of Islam. It also did not try to solve many of the economic and social problems, not to mention the way it is handling the issue of violence, which depends on the policy of physical liquidation. All this forces the youngsters to use violence.

[Ahmad] Is the idea of mediation [between government and Islamists] still on the table?

[Mashhur] We did not interfere in the issue of mediation and we did not impose ourselves on the government, because it did not ask us to. We are just trying to express our opinion in this problem, because the matter requires more dialogue, an end to repression, unleashing of freedoms, and the application of ordinary laws so that this predicament could be overcome.

[Ahmad] What is your opinion on the issue of national dialogue?

[Mashhur] The subject was raised eight months ago. Despite this, the government excluded some political forces that are active in the Egyptian society and relied on parties that have no presence in the society. The matter needs dialogue, understanding, and individuals freely elected by the people so they can represent them and express their views and needs.

[Ahmad] Who will represent the Islamists at the national dialogue table?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood has been excluded so far, but we could say that some writers who belong to the Islamic current could represent the Islamists. As for the Labor Party, it represents itself and does not represent the Muslim Brotherhood. The same goes for the Muslim Brotherhood, which cannot represent the Labor Party.

[Ahmad] Is reaching power one of your goals?

[Mashhur] We are always accused of attempting to reach for power, but power does not interest us. All we want is the application of the Islamic shari'ah, which comes from God. If someone applies and rules under the Islamic shari'ah, we will stand behind and support him.

[Ahmad] Do you believe in dialogue with the other side [secularists]?

[Mashhur] There is no direct contacts or dialogue with them. We say what we believe and they say what they believe. But many of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party's members abuse us, because the Islamic line bothers them. Despite this, whenever there is a public issue that relates to freedoms in Egypt and requires dialogue, there is no reason why such dialogue cannot be held, because it serves the common good.

Prosecutor Bans Publication of Muslim Brotherhood Cases

NC0806172594 Cairo MENA in English 1520 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, Jun 8 (MENA)—The Public Prosecutor, Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi, has issued a decision banning publication of current investigations in the "Salsabil" case No. 87 for 1992.

He also banned publication of investigations being conducted by the al-Jizah prosecutor with Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr [general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood] in case No. 3219 for 1994 (administrative), Markaz Imbabah; and case No. 687 for 1994 (administrative) [word indistinct] distribution of leaflets by a banned organization.

Cairo Police Sweep Nets 'Fugitive Terrorists'

NC0806135094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—A police sweep was carried out in southern Cairo's slum neighborhoods early this morning to apprehend fugitive terrorists, outlaws, and ordinary criminals.

Assistant Interior Minister Mansur 'Isawi said the sweep in which the various Interior Ministry departments took part resulted in the arrest of 12 men from the fundamentalist Islamic groups. He said that the sweep, which concentrated on the 'Arab Ghunaym area in Hulwan, also resulted in the arrest of 32 men from the Muslim Brotherhood and al-Salafiyun. Moreover, 20 political suspects were arrested and referred to the State Intelligence Department. Some 16 ordinary criminals and outlaws were also arrested. Five pieces of various firearms were seized.

Paper: U.S. Should Reverse Security Council Stance

NC0906075494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has stated that the United States' objection to the Security Council's doing its duty in condemning the latest bestial Israeli aggression against south Lebanon, which constitutes a serious violation of the sovereignty

of an independent state, makes Washington lose a great deal of credibility, at least in the Arab world and in most countries of the third world. In an editorial published today, the paper stressed that what is even more serious is that U.S. attempts to save Israel from the consequences of its aggressive actions will encourage Tel Aviv rulers to continue their blatant behavior with impunity. This attitude threatens the peace process in which the U.S. Administration states it plays the role of partner.

AL-AKHBAR noted the surprise caused by U.S. President Clinton's attempts to bar the Security Council from passing a resolution condemning the Israeli aggression, which left approximately 130 people dead or injured. The paper also noted the denunciation of the Israeli behavior by many Western nations at a time when peace negotiations are supposed to be taking place with the participation of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. Voicing hope that Washington will reconsider its stance, the paper stated that if Washington does not want to condemn its ally or at least advise it to exercise self-restraint, it should allow the international organization responsible for deterring the aggression the opportunity to do its duty.

Al-Baz: Country 'Closely Watching' Yemen Crisis

NC0806165794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt is closely watching the situation in fraternal Yemen out of its concern for the Yemeni people's interests and the Arab nation's interests in this strategic part of the Arab homeland. He said that Egypt hopes fighting among the sons of fraternal Yemen will stop as soon as possible. It also hopes that the Arab League and UN efforts on this regard will succeed.

Al-Baz made this statement after receiving Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who later departed for Sanaa.

Libya

Commentary Criticizes Clinton Algerian Statement

LD0806221794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government affirmed once more its flagrant interference in the internal affairs of sisterly Algeria and is poking its nose into matters which do not concern it.

The U.S. President called on the Algerian Government to hold, what he called, a dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The U.S. revealed in a press conference held in Paris yesterday that there were contacts between the U.S. Government and a number of FIS elements who are described as terrorists in Algeria.

This is not the first time that such statements have been issued by U.S. officials on the internal situation in Algeria in an attempt to dictate specific policies to this Arab country.

British Press Attack on Mrs. Fletcher Condemned

LD0806091094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jun (JANA)—JANA's local affairs editor condemned the frantic attack launched by some British newspapers against Mrs. Queenie Fletcher, the mother of the English policewoman who was killed in London in 1984, as a result of the statements which she made during her visit to the Great Jamahiriyah a few days ago.

Mrs. Fletcher said [words indistinct] her visit to Libya gave her the opportunity to see the effect of the sanctions and the unjustified harm they caused to the Great Jamahiriyah.

She added: "I would like to say that I do not wish the death of my daughter to be exploited in order to impose sanctions on the Libyan people."

She expressed her wish that political relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Britain should be restored to their previous state and that there would be no problems between the two countries.

The editor stressed that the British press campaign [words indistinct] the statements of Mrs. Fletcher and her initiative in visiting the Great Jamahiriyah could only be interpreted as official British sensitivity to any sincere attempt to get at the truth, or even fear that the truth, which is far removed from the falsification of facts to serve premeditated political ends, will be reached.

Otherwise why should Mrs. Fletcher's statement that she did not want her daughter's death to be exploited for the purpose of imposing sanctions on the Libyan people be received with this British media commotion? The British press's rejection of this statement implies direct support for the exploitation of the death of Mrs. Fletcher's daughter to achieve political aims, namely support for what the British Government has done in this regard.

The editor asks how the wishes of British citizens that their country's relations with other states should be free from problems can be turned into a crime, in the eyes of the British press, for which British citizens are held accountable and as a result of which they have pressure put on them to modify their position.

A press which adopts the policy of falsifying the facts and twisting the truth in order to serve political aims and cause harm to people is a press which speaks in the name of the devil and which works for the dominance of evil and hatred in the world.

Chadian President Sends Message to al-Qadhdhafi

LD0806203494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 8 Jun—The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received a thank-you and appreciation cable from President Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad, on the occasion of the conclusion of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

I seize this happy opportunity to renew to you the permanent readiness of the government and people of Chad to work relentlessly for the sake of consolidating the relations between our two fraternal countries and peoples.

'Authorized Source' Comments on Aouzou Ruling

LD0706184194 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo [Words indistinct] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An authorised source at the Arab Libyan follow-up bureau in Cairo has confirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah was, and still is, one of the most keen countries on the achievement of international justice, and that the Great Jamahiriyah constantly asserts its full commitment to the implementation of international law.

In a comment made by the authorised source regarding the international welcome for the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling in respect of Aouzou, he said that the great Jamahiriyah is renowned, with the testimony of the world and its international body, for such plausible conduct, which endorses legal settlement for disputes. The Great Jamahiriyah previously committed itself to the ruling of international law regarding the continental reef with each of Malta and Tunisia. The Great Jamahiriyah followed the same line of conduct in respect of its neighbour, Chad, thus giving one example after the other in the settlement of disputes through legal means, the thing which was praised by the spokesman on behalf of the United Nations secretary general, who paid tribute to the Great Jamahiriyah for implementing the International Court of Justice ruling on Aouzou.

The source went on to say: At the time when the Great Jamahiriyah re-asserts its commitment on the implementation of international law based on judiciary legitimacy and the rule of law, we find that other states claiming to lead the so-called new world order, act towards the violation of international laws and conventions and has not implemented resolutions previously issued by the International Court of Justice, such as the ruling in favour of Nicaragua, despite their claim for the sovereignty of international legitimacy. This makes us raise the question: What international legitimacy do they really want or claim, the force of law or the law of force?

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives in Rabat, Makes Statement

LD0806220894 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in our country this afternoon on a visit to Morocco. [passage omitted]

'Arafat is accompanied by a delegation made up essentially of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the culture minister, and Marwan Kanafani and Khalid Salam, advisers to the Palestinian president.

At the airport lounge 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] First, you all know the deep-rooted, strong relationship which exists between us and his majesty the king, his rightly guided government, and his fraternal people. As is also known, we have for his majesty the king all the affection, all the fraternity, and all the strong brotherly feelings of which we are always proud.

We are about to leave for Palestine, God willing. We have to come and see the king in order to listen to his valuable advice and to his great wisdom which we, our people, and our nationals are in need of at this historic, critical, and important moment. God willing, we will pray together in the first of the two Qiblahs [Jerusalem], the third holy place, the place from where Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace upon him, made his midnight journey to the seven heavens, and the birthplace of Jesus, God's peace be upon him. [end recording]

'Arafat on Aid Message From Christopher

LD0906001694 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] As is well-known, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat began a visit to Morocco today.

At the Rabat-Salle VIP lounge he made a statement in which he praised the stances of His Majesty King Hassan II toward the Palestinian issue, in particular, and Arab issues, in general. [passage omitted]

On the meeting of the countries offering aid to the self-rule areas that will begin in Paris tomorrow, the Palestinian president said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I received an important message yesterday from Mr. Warren Christopher on the occasion of the donor countries' conference, which—God willing—will begin its meetings in Paris tomorrow. This message demonstrates a clear-cut U.S. stance that is supportive of this process and the Palestinian authority. It urges all donor countries to follow the example of the U.S. Administration in offering urgent and immediate aid to the national authority to enable it to perform its duties, particularly because we need great potential in the first days to be able to carry this heavy burden. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Meets Libyan Counterpart

LD0806210494 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met this evening brother Habib Ben Yahya, the Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister on the sidelines of the 60th session of the African foreign affairs ministers' council.

The issues reviewed during this meeting included the agenda of the present session and the coordination of the two countries' stances towards them for the benefit of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries and the African peoples.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Special Envoy of Yemen's al-Bid

LD0806103494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] At 1045 this morning his highness the amir received Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, special envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and his accompanying delegation. Mr. al-'Attas briefed his highness, God protect him, on the regrettable development of the Yemeni conflict and the course of the fighting there.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of the amir's affairs, and Mishari Jasim al-'Anjari, minister of justice and administrative affairs.

Al-'Attas Departs

EA0806205594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, left Kuwait this evening after a visit to that country within the context of his tour of Arab countries, which included a number of Arab states and the United Arab Emirates. During his visit to Kuwait, brother al-'Attas met the amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, with whom he discussed developments in Yemen and the battles there. [passage omitted]

British Ambassador Praises 'Solid' Relations

LD0406144394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1243 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jun—The United Kingdom's ambassador to Kuwait stressed that British-Kuwaiti relations were deep and solid, and expressed his country's keenness to increase and develop these relations in various fields, particularly trade and defense.

In a statement to AL-QABAS newspaper, published here today, Ambassador William [Hugh] Fullerton said Britain "puts great importance on its relations with the State of Kuwait and these relations have been characterized by consistency and strength."

He added that on the political, trade, and defense level, the relations between the State of Kuwait and Britain were "progressing continuously as has been illustrated by the mutual visits of senior officials from the two countries and the visits of the British naval units to Kuwaiti ports and the royal airforce. For instance, seven trade missions visited Kuwait during the last few months at the end of which trade agreements were concluded.

William Fullerton stressed the need "to continue the imposition of economic sanctions on the Iraqi regime in order to comply with the UN resolutions, on top of which is the recognition of Kuwait and its sovereignty and the release of the captives detained by the Iraqi regime."

The ambassador made clear that "Kuwait enjoys a democracy with special vitality where Diwaniyahs [guest houses] exist alongside the National Assembly and there is an interest in human rights issue in Kuwait."

William Fullerton stated "Britain is keen to have balanced relations with all the region's countries and believes that stability in the region does not come by waging wars."

Algerian Culture Minister, Delegation Meet Amir

LD0406100094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Jun—Algerian Culture Minister Silmane Shaykh and an accompanying delegation met today with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

An official statement stated that the minister delivered to the Amir a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. Contents of the message were not disclosed.

[Passage omitted] Shaykh and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait 3 June on an official visit.

Saudi Arabia

Former Diplomat Seeks U.S. Asylum, Backs Opposition

LD0806085294 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] London, June 7, IRNA—Former Saudi Arabian diplomat, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Khalawi says he is adding his voice to a growing number of moderate, educated Saudi intellectuals, who can no longer tolerate the abuses of power by the present regime in Riyadh.

This voice, he declares, will not be stilled by bribery or character assassination, nor stifled by threats, from stating its legitimate demands to ensure that political freedom and best interests of the peace-loving people of Saudi Arabia are recognized.

Al-Khalawi defected from being the first secretary at the Saudi mission to the United Nations in New York after writing a letter to heir apparent [Crown Prince] 'Abdallah last month stipulating his "sincere opposition" to the Riyadh government. He laid out that he opposed policies based upon family favoritism, corruption and the purposeful incitement of hatred among various social and sectarian groups, which he said, were to divide and weaken the social fabric of the Saudi people. In addition, he spoke against steps taken taken by the regime in the international arena that involved itself in "wars and

enmities with Muslim countries, both Arab and non-Arab" and entering into nuclear arrangements without necessary legal guarantees.

The former Saudi diplomat has since sought political asylum in the United States and made known his views to the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDLR), which moved its office to London in April this year.

His defection is the first from a senior political figure and is seen as a coup for the committee, set up last year by a group of Saudi academics calling for moderate reforms to the autocratic rule of the royal family. In a letter to the CDLR, al-Khalawi suggested that he had been subjected to a kidnap attempt and a visit from Saudi intelligence since writing the letter. He said that he was first made an offer to buy his silence before threats were made to his life and those of his close family both in New York and in Saudi Arabia. The governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman, is also understood to have asked his relatives to bring him back from the U.S. or failing this, to stay in exile themselves.

The former diplomat said he also has proof of the severe violations of human rights that have been going on in Saudi Arabia from almost 14,000 secret documents he collected while being first secretary at the United Nations for the past four years. His letter to the heir apparent set forth demands for the elimination of such wrongdoings, which he said he could no longer tolerate.

Saudi Press Criticizes Fighting in Yemen

LD0806084794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Jun (SPA)—The Saudi press tackled in their editorials a number of regional and international issues.

Concerning the situation in Yemen the daily 'AL-YAWM' stresses that what is happening in sisterly Yemen, the continuation of the conflict between the north and the south, saddens every Arab Muslim.

Despite Yemen's announcement that it will positively respond to Arab, Islamic, and international appeals for a cease-fire, the paper goes on to say, the war is still raging between the north and the south [of Yemen] and human and material losses on both sides are mounting.

The ideal, logical, and only solution to the Yemeni conflict, the paper adds, is to stop the gun fire, to place the supreme Yemeni interests over personal interests, and to listen to reason in order to save what can be saved of human and material resources in Yemen.

For its part, the daily 'Al-MADINAH' notes that battles taking place in Yemen in the name of unity does not harm only the perpetrator, it also harms the whole world's view of Arabs.

The paper says: While the world is seeing a trend toward integration through dialogue and the ballot box, the Yemenis are resorting to the sword instead of dialogue and to murder instead of the ballot box.

The paper goes on to say: Many Yemeni people, on both sides, have fallen victim in the name of unity. Large economic installations have been destroyed in the name of prosperity that will come with unity and hundreds of thousands of Yemenis have been made homeless in the name of reuniting them. What kind of logic governs what is happening and what should the people believe? Is it what they hear about the noble objectives or the death, destruction, and displacement of people that they see?

The paper says that the demand for an immediate cease-fire stated in the GCC ministerial council's communique and its emphasis on the impossibility of achieving unity by force is a clear message to the warring brothers in Yemen.

Shura Council Resumes Session

LD0706131194 Riyadh SPA in English 1227 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Riyadh, June 7, SPA—The Shura (Consultative) Council resumed here yesterday its ninth session under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Jabir, the council's chairman.

The council discussed the topics on the agenda.

Yemen

Sanaa Leaders Meet UN Envoy; Salih Announces Cease-Fire

Envoy Begins 'Fact-Finding Mission'

NC0806180894 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 8 (AFP)—UN special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi urged the warring sides in Yemen Wednesday [8 June] to stop fighting and start negotiating as battles raged outside the southern bastion of Aden.

Ibrahimi arrived from Cairo and was due to hold talks later with northern government officials, before meeting President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Thursday.

"The in-fighting between brothers must stop and must stop now, and give way to resuming negotiations," Ibrahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, said as he arrived on a fact-finding mission.

He has been sent under the terms of a UN Security Council resolution adopted last week calling on Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid to cease hostilities immediately.

A ceasefire announced Monday by northern leaders collapsed within hours, and the UN has reported that up to one million people could be in need of humanitarian aid following the month of fighting.

Salih warned Wednesday that the war would last longer because the international community had become involved in the conflict.

"Bilateral, direct discussions are the best way. Since it has become an international issue the conflict will take much longer."

And he added that international observers in Yemen would be "a flagrant interference in our internal affairs."

Meanwhile, 27 civilians, mainly women and children, were killed and 45 wounded in an attack on Dar Sa'd village 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Aden, officials at the al-Jumhuriyah hospital said.

The morgue in the southern city was reported to be overflowing, and head doctor Muhsin 'Awad told AFP "we have 20 bodies outside the morgue."

Southern officials accused the north of shelling the village late Tuesday.

More shelling could be heard from Aden on Wednesday.

Correspondents reported that female militia forces from the south's Yemen Socialist Party were deployed Wednesday at roadblocks on routes leading into Aden to press gang men into fighting.

Ibrahimi told reporters on his arrival that he was starting his mission "with an open mind and a very strong desire to help the brothers in Yemen solve their problems."

Al-'Attar Receives Ibrahimi

JN0906054194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Last night, Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar received brother Lakhdar Brahimi, who arrived in Sanaa yesterday as a personal envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. [passage omitted]

Salih Announces Cease-Fire

JN0906124994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brother Lakhdar Brahimi, personal envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues related to Lakhdar Ibrahimi's fact-finding mission in our country.

The president welcomed the UN secretary general's envoy. He reiterated our country's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 on the situation in the Republic of Yemen, and its readiness to extend all possible support to guarantee the success of the mission of the UN secretary general's envoy.

The Presidential Council chairman also stressed that the forces of unity and legitimacy are fully abiding by the cease-fire, but the gang of rebellion and secession deliberately refuses to respond to and violates UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 in an attempt to internationalize the internal crisis in our country. He pointed out that the only thing that could prove the gang of rebellion and secession has responded to the resolution is for it to stop firing artillery shells at the positions of our Armed Forces at the entrances of the city of Aden, and pledge not to use what remains of the warplanes this secessionist gang has used to bombard the forces of unity and legitimacy along all axes.

The brother president said he has instructed our Armed Forces to observe a cease-fire as of 1800 [1500 GMT] today in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 924, and to give a third chance to the rebellious and secessionist gang, hoping that this gang will not repeat its violations of the cease-fire, and will not continue its aggression against our Armed Forces. He emphasized that the forces of unity and legitimacy will fully and decisively comply with the cease-fire at all axes.

Brother Lakhdar Brahimi has expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the brother president and the officials in our country, for their care to make his mission a success, for complying with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924, and for doing all that will restore stability and security to Yemen.

Attending the meeting were Muhammad Salim Basindwah, minister of foreign affairs, and ambassador Muhammad Hadi, director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Briefs UN Secretary General on Events

JN0806135594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, minister of social security and social affairs, met with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in Geneva yesterday. He conveyed to him the greetings and gratitude of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. He explained in detail the situation in our country, particularly after the war criminal, traitor agent 'Ali Salim al-Bid, has fomented sedition among the sons of the Armed Forces in order to attain his treacherous conspiratorial aims. The brother minister told the UN secretary general that the secessionist gang does not represent the south or the Socialist Party, but only itself, and that it broke away from legitimacy and national unity. He said broad popular sectors as well as all leaders, members, and cadres of parties and sons of the Yemeni people do not agree with the secessionist clique's explosion of the situation or its treacherous secession announcement. He told him that unity took place peacefully and was blessed by the people and recognized by the Arabs and the world. He added that elections took place and a referendum on the constitution was held and that the claim that the unity was imposed by force is baseless.

On the contrary, he said, there are attempts to impose secession by force by this deluded secessionist gang. He indicated that those who demand peace do not want or desire peace or even the existence of a strong and sound Yemen.

The UN secretary general expressed his desire to convey his greetings to the brother chairman of the Presidential Council. He said neither he nor the Security Council is biased toward any party, but there is right and wrong and there is no neutrality between the two.

Yahya Jaghman, our ambassador in Geneva, attended the meeting.

Cabinet Briefed on Political, Military Situation

JN0806151894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting today under Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. The Council listened to a report by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah on the latest political developments in Yemen and the preparations under way for receiving brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's envoy.

The Council also listened to a report presented by Interior Minister brother Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil on the stable security situation throughout the governorates of the republic, especially in the southern and eastern governorates.

The Council was briefed by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Qadir Bafadal, minister of supply and trade on the stable supply situation throughout the governorates of the republic.

The Council noted with great appreciation and pride the stands of our people in all governorates, especially in the southern and eastern governorates, and their support for the forces of the constitutional legitimacy and their unparalleled cooperation to defeat the secessionist scheme, which sought to fragment the country and harm a great historic achievement that the Yemeni masses looked forward to throughout the ages, represented by the reunification of the homeland on 22 May 1990.

The Council was briefed by the Defense Ministry on the military situation. In this regard, the Council praised the great efforts being exerted by the Armed Forces and security personnel to maintain our people's gains and national unity, consolidate security and stability, and thwart the intentions of those dreaming of harming Yemen's most sacred gain.

Meanwhile, the Council noted its extreme regret for certain states' statements, which reflect unprincipled stands on what is going on in our country. The Council hoped that these states will reconsider their stands in a manner that proves that they are really interested in preserving Yemeni blood and discouraging the secessionist rebels in order to safeguard Yemen's national, legitimate right to reinforce its unity and ensure its and its neighbors' security and stability. The Council reiterated that Yemeni unity is not only a national Yemeni gain, but also an Arab gain which had been wholeheartedly aspired to by all Arab masses.

Radio Reports Salih's 8 Jun News Conference

JN0906064094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has welcomed the arrival of brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to our country on a fact-finding mission. The brother president underlined the commitment of our Armed Forces'—the forces of unity and legitimacy—to the letter and spirit of the UN Security Council resolution. He emphasized that this was despite the secessionist gang's breach of the cease-fire resolution and its refusal to be bound by it with the object of influencing world public opinion and calling in international forces to monitor the cease-fire. He said that we reject this in part and parcel. The ongoing war is not one between two countries or two systems of government; it is one between the Yemeni people and secessionist elements within the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] command. Yet, within the context of the new world order, we consented to the resolution and are prepared to deal with it, despite our deep conviction that the resolution amounts to blatant interference in our internal affairs. In this particular case, the Security Council undoubtedly curried favor with certain Arab regimes that sponsored the resolution, although permanent members of the council were not convinced of the resolution on the grounds that it constitutes meddling in our internal affairs. The consent of these states was only to please the resolution's sponsors.

The president emphasized that the military option has been forced on the homeland and the people by the rebellious secessionist gang. He said we are for dialogue, to which we committed ourselves as long ago as nine months when the crisis was stage managed by the secessionists who were paid for it, just as they were paid for the secession and the fratricidal fighting and the souls of the martyrs and the Yemeni blood that has been spilled.

The Yemeni state, the brother president added, will have a bright future and modern state institutions, with streamlined local government in order to cut back on centralization, and provincial administrations armed with sufficient powers, once the relevant amendments are introduced.

The brother president stated his interest in keeping up the dialogue with the unionists within the YSP. We are not prepared to talk with those who proclaimed secession and plotted against Yemeni unity and cashed in on the internecine fighting and secession. There can be no dialogue with these treasonous and criminal elements,

now that they arrest warrants have been issued by the Republic's prosecutor general.

The remarks were made at a news conference the brother Presidential Council chairman held for local, Arab, and world news media. At the outset of the conference, he welcomed them and noted that this was the second such meeting with journalists since the traitor and war criminal al-Bid declared the invalid secession and formed the secessionist government. It also comes on the heels of the Security Council's resolution. The Yemeni Government said it will cooperate with all its clauses.

Regrettably, we had to make a decision, which we communicated to the UN secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, and the Islamic Conference Organization's secretary general, welcoming the resolution and declaring our intention to deal with its clauses.

Most regrettably, however, the treasonous secessionist elements refused to be bound by the resolution. The UN secretary general and international organizations have been informed of the breaches of which the secessionists are guilty.

Taking questions from journalists at the news conference, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council was asked what the forces of legitimacy were waiting for before they entered Aden, and if the delay is for military, political, or humanitarian reasons. Entering Aden is a political decision, he said, so as to avert as much material destruction as possible on humanitarian grounds, because the secessionist fighters are using citizens as human shields. If we do not send forces into Aden, this is out of our concern for the lives of civilians.

President Salih was asked about what measures could secure a cease-fire and whether he would sanction the presence of observers to monitor a cease-fire. We have informed the UN chief, the president said, that the secessionists have turned down the Security Council resolution and pursued their air attacks on the forces of legitimacy and the units positioned at the Aden Governorate's main approaches. We informed the UN secretary general that the separatists rejected the resolution despite their announcement that they were bound by it, which is not true. This is because the scenario of the command of apostasy and secession in the YSP calls for pursuing the hostilities to influence world public opinion under the pretext that the cease-fire is not holding, thus it may be possible to call in international forces to monitor the cease-fire. This we reject in part and parcel. We consented to the resolution, the president said, although we regard what is taking place in our country as an internal affair. The ongoing war is not one between two countries or two systems of government, but between the Yemeni people and secessionists within the YSP command.

Asked about the method of observing the cease-fire, the brother president said this is for the legitimate leadership to decide; the secessionists have to submit to the Security Council resolution, or else they will have to submit to the force of Yemeni legitimacy's military.

Asked how he felt about the Gulf Cooperation Council's stance on the situation in Yemen and whether he deemed it personal or political meddling in Yemen's domestic affairs, the brother president said: We had wished that efforts and good offices would be brought to bear by neighboring states on the bilateral level. We never wanted these efforts exerted by the brothers to adopt such a resolution at the Security Council. This is because if these efforts had been made within the framework of bilateral contacts and relations, they would have been welcomed, and we might have arrived at better results, short of escalating the situation and going to the Security Council so the Yemeni issue would be dealt with within an international framework. If the neighbors had cared for Yemeni blood, they would have refrained from adopting such decisions and meddling in our internal affairs, and consequently the matter would probably have ended.

The brother president noted that interference in our country's internal affairs could prolong the conflict. He hoped that others would stay out of this affair and stop their diplomatic activity out of concern for Yemen. He said that if they halt this activity, then probably the problem would be solved immediately. However, the more they act politically and the more they interfere in Yemen's internal affairs, the longer the conflict will continue in our country.

Asked what if the sons of Aden say they are not willing to join legitimacy, the brother president said: The Yemeni people are one and the operations carried out at the entrances of Aden are against rebellious elements that have departed from constitutional legitimacy. We are doing our best to spare civilians any harm. We are opposing the rebellious elements that are entrenched behind the civilians. When those elements are arrested or if they surrender or flee, then the government is fully prepared to move all the state institutions to Aden Governorate to provide all food and medical supplies, rebuild the city, and repair telephone, electricity, and water networks, and others.

The brother president added: We are preparing for a campaign in which all institutions and bodies will improve the conditions of Aden, whose status as a commercial and economic capital will be better than its status before the establishment of unity on 22 May 1990 and during the interim period, during which the separatists had attempted to tighten their grip on the heroic city of Aden, the commercial and economic capital. Thus, Aden will be just like the political capital, Sanaa, which accommodates the sons of Yemen from all the governorates of the republic, and not from a certain region or faction.

The government will also provide care and attention so that Aden will witness prosperous trade activity in the future, since it is considered a free zone. Its status will be

better than ever before, especially after evicting what is left of the forces of traitors and secessionists. There will be civilian police in Aden to maintain order, but it will not be the way it was before—an arsenal of weapons in the hands of the secessionist, which they had inherited from the socialist camp, in addition to the weapons they acquired during the interim period, particularly since 19 August [1993] after the veil was lifted from the face of the traitor, agent, deviator al-Bid.

The brother president reiterated that the status of Aden will be better than any other capital, as a major port of the Yemeni Republic. We will give it our utmost attention and care, he said.

Answering a question on how differences between brothers had turned into a war in which the loser will be the Yemeni people, the brother president said: We had wished that the brothers would not turn personal and bilateral differences—that could happen between one country and another for cumulative reasons—into settling scores. We regret that these differences have claimed the lives of the sons of the Yemeni people in return for settling scores. The people should have blamed each other at bilateral meetings and through dialogue and diplomatic channels. If the differences are between persons, governments, or leaders, then these should not be allowed to harm the Yemeni homeland, which will have negative repercussions on bilateral relations between the neighboring countries.

In reply to a question on whether he is willing to discuss all issues, including the issue of unity, with the other side, which is setting the precondition of a cease-fire for any talks, the brother president said: There can be no dialogue with the secessionists. Dialogue can be held only with the leaders who have been subdued by the secessionists, who have received a price for the blood of the Yemenis shed on the Yemeni scene. There can be no dialogue with the secessionists. God willing, if the UN Security Council resolution is complied with, and if the unity-orientated elements operating in Aden are allowed to come out and make their voices heard, then we can hold a dialogue with them. However, there can be no dialogue with the elements whose names were mentioned in the decision issued by the Public Prosecution Office. This is because these elements are behind the ordeal being experienced by the homeland. They will either be apprehended and tried, or they will have to leave the homeland, just as the Hamid-al-Din family left it. This is because they are more dangerous than the Hamid-al-Din family. Some traitors have begun to make arrangements for their departure for some Arab and foreign capitals.

The brother president noted that traitor al-Bid, the archleader of this gang, is currently making preparations to flee the country. He added that the forces of legitimacy will continue their efforts to pursue him. God willing, they will manage to apprehend him.

When queried about the future of inter-Arab ties against the background of the Yemeni crisis and the conflicting Arab stands on it, given the fact that the Gulf crisis has caused a wide rift in inter-Arab ties, the brother president said: It is our hope that the repercussions of the Gulf crisis will become a thing of the past. The repercussions of this crisis should not affect the situation in Yemen, because Yemen had nothing at all to do with what happened during the Gulf crisis. This is reminiscent of the unfair campaign and the biased media, which attempted to misrepresent Yemen's stand during the Gulf crisis. During that campaign, it was alleged that Yemen had tactical and strategic missiles, Iraqi aircraft, and an Iraqi army on its soil; and that this was part of a scheme. As a matter of fact, it has become clear to the entire world that all these allegations were baseless. This harmed the credibility of some media organizations that promoted these allegations to the Arab and world public. He noted that this media bias and misrepresentation of facts is being repeated at present. The situation in Yemen is being misrepresented. Most regrettably, some fraternal Arabs are engaged in this to settle some scores in bilateral ties. These Arabs seek to take advantage of what is taking place in Yemen nowadays. He regretted this, and hoped that the Arab media will shoulder their responsibilities toward the Arab nation's causes.

The brother president noted the misrepresentation of facts carried out by some media organizations, which transmitted footage of the legitimacy forces while they were engaged in military operations, and claimed that these forces were the forces of apostacy and secession. Thus, these media organizations lost their credibility, because the Arab public is aware of their bias.

The brother president reiterated that these practices prompted our people to line up in a mammoth support of their unity. These practices also enabled them to identify those who oppose their unity.

Asked about his expectations concerning the visit of the envoy of the UN secretary general, the brother president said: First, we have faith in political dialogue. Since the eruption of the crisis, we have made immense efforts to reach a solution with the secessionists. This dialogue lasted almost nine months. It resulted in the drafting of the accord document. This document reflected our sense of responsibility, which was dictated by a desire on our part to avoid the situation currently plaguing the homeland and avert a military solution.

The brother president added: We welcome political dialogue. We do not believe that the military solution is the only possible solution. However, it was imposed on us by the secessionists, who received huge amounts of filthy money. They had been supplied with weapons before they decided to espouse the war option. During the crisis, they were supplied with a squadron of Sukhoi aircraft, not to mention a quantity of self-propelled guns enough to equip two battalions, received from Bulgaria and Hungary. The cost of each of these guns was $5

million. Some 400 tanks in the possession of the secessionists have been seized, not to mention almost 500 guns, approximately 300 track armored vehicles, wheeled armored vehicles, and large amounts of ammunition.

The brother president indicated that he has information regarding new contracts to purchase one MiG-29 aircraft squadron, several T-82 tanks, and tactical missiles. Nonetheless, he affirmed that the fate of these weapons will be similar to that suffered by previous weapons. They are incapable of confronting the Yemeni people.

The brother president called on those who are paying for these weapons not to repeat the mistake. He said: We say to those who are financing the purchase of such weapons not to make such a mistake again and to try to invest the money to rebuild what was destroyed by the war, so they will be highly appreciated by the Yemeni people.

The brother president welcomed the envoy of the UN secretary general and reiterated our country's readiness to cooperate with him to render his mission a success. Asked what will happen if the Unites Nations insists on dispatching international observers to monitor the cease-fire, the president noted that our country complies with the letter and spirit of the UN security Council. He said: We will not defy international legitimacy, but the separatist gang is the one that violates the cease-fire and gambles on instigating public opinion—by claiming that our Armed Forces are not complying with the cease-fire—to call in international forces. This will be rejected.

Asked about development issues and whether Yemen will reconsider some agreements concluded in the field of oil investments and in other fields, the brother president said that all aspects of life will be reviewed, particularly the agreements ratified outside the homeland by some elements of the separatist gang, such as [former prime minister] al-'Attas and [former oil minister] Bin-Husaynun. He said the government will be reorganized on a modern and developed basis, government administrative and economic institutions will be also reorganized, and democracy and freedom of press will be consolidated. He noted that the separatist leaders were one of the factors of frustration over the past four years, since the transitional period. Those leaders, he added, did not want our people in the southern and eastern governorates to enjoy the fruits of unity. The brother president that everything will be reviewed to guarantee that every governorate in the republic will enjoy the goodness of unity. He noted that the traitors from the separatist elements were a stumbling block to social, political, and cultural progress despite the political slogans raised in their political platform. He said: They were not concerned about our people's interests inasmuch as they were concerned about their personal interests. The big evidence of this is that they withdrew part of the people's money and deposited them in their bank accounts in Europe and elsewhere.

The brother president said that thanks to the efforts and cohesion of all people we will proceed toward achieving agricultural and industrial development and digging out mineral and oil resources to benefit our Yemeni people. He stressed that the government will offer all facilities and support for national and foreign investments to build the Yemeni homeland, noting in this regard that observers and journalists have noticed the great progress we achieved in the field of development before unity. However, the factors of apostasy and secession in the YSP worked, in the wake of establishing the unity, toward aborting the development, as they frustrated our people in Aden, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, Hadhramaut, and al-Mahrah. This is because these elements have nothing but political platforms. They exploited all potentials, state revenues, and loans for their own interests during the pre-unity period. However, when we make promises to our people, we keep these promises.

The president said: We will work to expand participation in the government so that this participation will include all influential political forces and producing forces which will join hands to rebuild what was destroyed by the destructive war and achieve comprehensive awakening. He noted that the difficult ordeal facing our people now has produced this splendid coherence to defend unity and democracy, safeguard security and stability, and confront all the secessionist elements that tried to undermine the gains of the people, expressing his satisfaction with national coherence.

The president then wished the pressmen success in their work.

The news conference attended by brothers Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development; Ahmad Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information; and a number of officials.

Salih Reaffirms Stance on Dialogue, Unity

PM0806114094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa by Amir Taheri in London; date not given]

[Text] [Taheri] After more than five weeks since the fighting began, do you believe that resorting to force was unavoidable?

[Salih] That question suggests that it was Sanaa which resorted to force. We would like to stress to you that we went to impossible lengths to avert the fighting. It would take a long time and numerous pages to explain all that in detail. Nevertheless, we are willing to reply to any suggestion that Sanaa was working for a military solution to the crisis, which was prepared and stirred up by known leaders in the Socialist Party who were preparing to implement its military aims at least 10 months before the fighting began. Numerous states have irrefutable evidence of this, namely the arms supplies which were

delivered secretly to al-Mukalla and Aden ports with financing from some states in the region.

Sanaa is certain that al-Bid's return to Aden on 19 August 1993 and his remaining there until the day he moved (to Hadhramaut) and his refusal to return to Sanaa after the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document in Amman on 20 February, after Aden's failure to engage in a long-term confrontation with the al-'Amaliqah forces in Abyan on the same evening the signing took place...all this was part of the conspiracy which resulted in the current state of war. So Sanaa cannot be accused of preparing for this war. And if you have any doubts in this connection, we want you to provide evidence of your doubts so we can reply to them more clearly.

[Taheri] What can the Yemeni leadership achieve through military confrontation that it cannot achieve through negotiation?

[Salih] We confirm to you that negotiation and dialogue were the Presidential Council chairman's preferred option. The military option was imposed by the other party, because his real aim since he fabricated the crisis on 19 August 1993 was to impose secession by force—which so far he has failed to achieve.

Thus we stress that the political leadership in Sanaa can achieve all its aims through dialogue as long as this dialogue is based on constitutional legitimacy, adherence to Yemeni unity, and compliance with the results of the 27 April 1993 elections. But if the secessionists are seeking to achieve through dialogue what they have failed to achieve by force, they will suffer a more severe failure than their military failure.

[Taheri] Under what conditions would the Yemeni leadership be willing to accept a halt to the operations, starting with agreeing to the cease-fire?

[Salih] A cease-fire is not a problem for us, because our Armed Forces have been able to destroy the huge military equipment the rebels inherited from their close relations with the Warsaw Pact and as a result of the huge supplies they purchased before and after fabricating the crisis through al-Bid's return to Aden, and with finance from some Gulf Cooperation Council states. However, we do not conceal that we are very concerned that the Security Council resolution is nothing but a prelude to new accusations to be fabricated against the Republic of Yemen and its political leadership for the sake of passing new resolutions or justifying blatant interference in our internal affairs, especially as we had bitter experience in the early sixties during the conflict between monarchists and republicans.

[Taheri] Under what conditions and within what framework do you expect the Security Council to play a role in ending the armed conflict?

[Salih] We are certain that the Security Council's role in ending the existing dispute cannot transcend the existing legitimacy. Proof of this is the situation the government of north Cyprus has been experiencing for about 20 years. You know who is behind it. But we cannot ignore the possibility that Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas may become a second Denktas. However, he cannot achieve at the international level more than his opposite number has achieved.

[Taheri] Are you demanding the restoration of the situation that existed before the fighting erupted? Or is your government willing to negotiate a new formula for unity with the southern leadership?

[Salih] The Yemeni leadership is demanding nothing from anyone under the legitimate unity announced on 22 May 1990 on the basis of legal and constitutional foundations governed by the laws in force in what used to be called the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The Republic of Yemen was established on the basis of the constitutional rules and legal stipulations that governed the two countries. After the announcement of the unified state, the Constitution, over which we negotiated for 10 years, became the foundation of the new entity. After the announcement of the Republic of Yemen, a referendum was conducted on the new state's Constitution, on which the inhabitants of the republic overwhelmingly agreed. Nearly three years after the state was announced, general elections were held, and the world attested they were honest. Then the coalition government you know was formed. Despite all this, the secessionists relied in their announcement on House of Representatives members loyal to them, who had been elected by the people under the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the electoral law ratified by the House of Representatives, whose speaker was a prominent member of the Socialist Party, which is now seeking a new legitimacy for itself. So can there be any other demands for us to submit to the secessionists except the abolition of their decision to secede? If that is not achieved through legitimate channels internationally, I am certain that the Yemeni people are capable of achieving their unionist aims. And we stress to you that the preceding means that we are not willing to accept any formula.

[Taheri] Are there any mediation efforts which enjoy the Presidential Council's support? Or is the aim to achieve a decisive and complete victory on the battlefield?

[Salih] We believe that it is the secessionists who desperately need to achieve a decisive military victory on the battlefield, because that is the only way to prove their legitimacy. As for the legitimate authority in the Republic of Yemen, it does not need to do that, because it cares very much about every citizen's life, and shedding citizens' blood cannot be a means to prove its legitimacy. It is the rebels who need to prove their legitimacy by shedding the Yemenis' blood.

On that basis, we have confronted them firmly and powerfully, because we know who is behind them. And we can clearly tell you now that we are not fighting a

party that obtained 25 percent of the citizens' votes. It represents a minority that cannot be relied on. We are facing a foreign scheme.

Salih Receives UK Ambassador, Support for Unity

JN0806141694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received UK Ambassador Robert Douglas Gordon. They reviewed bilateral relations and the developments of the situation in our country, as well as issues of interest to the two countries. During the meeting, the British ambassador reiterated the United Kingdom's support for Yemeni unity and democracy, and its eagerness to promote its relations with the Republic of Yemen in all fields in the service of the two friendly countries' common interests.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council expressed appreciation for the British stand supporting unity and democracy. He stressed that this stand genuinely reflects British interest in consolidating security and stability in Yemen and the region.

He stressed our country's eagerness to promote its relations with Britain and to expand the spheres of cooperation. He indicated that Yemeni-British relations will witness further development and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

24 Parties Criticize 'Rebels,' GCC Statement

JN0806145794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] A number of political parties and organizations in the Republic of Yemen have stressed that the Yemeni people are capable of destroying a band of rebellious adventurers who have acquiesced in plunging our people into a painful and bloody conflict that can only advance the interests of the enemies of Yemen and the attempt to take it back to the pre-May 1990 era.

The political parties and organizations also stand ready to confront all the conspiracies that are targeting Yemen and to make sacrifices in the cause of its national rights—unity, democracy, and freedom.

A statement, issued by 24 political parties and organizations, said that what the rebels are doing today is a cheap attempt to forcibly slice off a part of the Republic of Yemen. The Yemeni masses, who on 22 May 1990, thronged to the streets to celebrate the inauguration of the Republic of Yemen and the realization of unity—the dream of their fathers and forefathers—and [word indistinct] self-determination. The masses, who said yes to the 15 May 1991 Constitution of the Republic and went to the polls in the first free and fair elections in the region—even in the Arab world at large—are the same masses who are now taking a determined stand against their rebellious and adventurous enemies.

The remarks made by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] on Yemen, added the statement, amount to a serious precedent that, rather than advance security and stability in the Peninsula, opens the road for many conflicts in each of the states of the region and creates the potential for negative and unwanted consequences. The statement paid tribute to the brother State of Qatar's lone voice at the ministerial session of the GCC with respect to the unity of the Republic of Yemen. All Arab states and the United Nations and the international community, as well as all political parties and mass organizations around the world, were urged by the statement to stand by the Republic of Yemen and its right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to adopt a noninterventionist posture. The statement warned against the consequences of further interference in the Republic of Yemen's domestic affairs or taking the rebels' side.

The statement was signed by the following parties and organizations: The General People's Congress; the Yemeni Reform Grouping; the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; unionists in the Yemeni Socialist Party; the Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization; the Right Party; the Democratic Nasirite Party; the Nasirite Correction Party; the al-Ummah Party; the Popular Forces Union; the National Forces Union; the National Union of the Yemeni Unity Forces; the League of the Sons of Yemen Unity—the Legitimate Leadership; the League of the Sons of Yemen Party—the Executive Committee; the Liberation Front Party; the Yemeni Renaissance Movement; the National Democratic Front; the Popular Organization of the Liberation Front Party; the Arab Ba'th Organization; the Revolutionary Democratic Party; the Democratic September Organization; the Social Democratic Party; the Islamic Monotheism and Action Movement; and the Yemen Revolution Struggler Organization.

Southern Yemeni Envoy to UN Expects Recognition

PM0806165494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, "envoy of the South Yemeni president to the United Nations," by Hanan al-Badri in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Badri] What steps will the southern leadership take if Sanaa backtracks on its acceptance of the cease-fire?

[Al-Dali] We have in our hands the constitutional and legal right to defend ourselves against any attack or invasion by the Sanaa authorities. And we—the victims of aggression—are internationally entitled to seek assistance from any friendly or fraternal state. So in accordance with international law, we are entitled to seek foreign assistance.

[Al-Badri] Will the confrontation escalate if Sanaa does not comply fully with international law? And we ask: Why have you not over the past two weeks used Scud missiles, as you have a stockpile of them? Is it because you have been subjected to pressures urging you to comply with the diplomatic efforts seeking to achieve the aim of securing recognition for the south?

[Al-Dali] I would like to stress that we support the policy of nonescalation. Because we indeed wish to end this conflict. But our adherence to the policy of nonescalation does not at all mean that we are unable to retaliate. If the situation escalates today, tomorrow, or after tomorrow, we will reply powerfully. As for the use of the Scud batteries, our military commanders should be asked about it. They know what should be done in these conditions. At any rate, we can, of course, resort to using this type of missiles to protect civilians from air raids.

[Al-Badri] But what about the recognition issue, which is one of the most important issues Sanaa is concerned about?

[Al-Dali] I believe that international recognition of Aden is proceeding unhindered. It will most certainly take place. And we feel that the Sanaa rulers have begun to lose control of the situation and express—in word and deed—the state of alarm and confusion they are experiencing.

[Al-Badri] We heard that you have obtained strong promises from the permanent member states of the Security Council of their move toward granting recognition.

[Al-Dali] As I said, recognition of Aden is most certainly on the way. Very soon fraternal states and then friendly states, first and foremost the permanent member states of the Security Council, will announce their recognition of Aden as an independent political entity, as was the situation in the past.

[Al-Badri] Did you raise with the Americans and the United Nations the issue of sending international forces to protect civilians in the south and observe the cease-fire?

[Al-Dali] I personally did not raise that matter, nor was I assigned to do so. But if the situation becomes critical, we will demand that. We rely in an action like that on the foundations of international legitimacy and the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas on Recognition Prospects, Ties With North

NC0906074394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who has been appointed prime minister in south Yemen, has warned that the persistence of the crisis will lead to major escalation and produce gloomy regional repercussions, including possible internationalization of the crisis.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, al-'Attas said: We are now limiting our efforts on reaching a cease-fire and agreeing on a formula for future conditions in the country. If Sanaa insists, however, on maintaining the crisis, the future will be bleak.

Al-'Attas praised Egypt's historic support for Yemeni interests since the 1970's up until the breakout of the recent ferocious civil war that Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, is trying to stop.

Al-'Attas affirmed that if the northerners continue the war and escalate hostitilies, many countries may hasten to recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Al-'Attas accused Iraq of intervening to help Sanaa in the current fighting.

He said the war has undermined the union and made the division of Yemen a fact. He remarked that Yemen cannot be stable if it continues to comprise two warring states and for this reason a formula must be found that would preserve each state's independence while still maintaining some relationship between them.

Al-'Attas Discusses Crisis With UAE Leader

EA0906102094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas, the prime minister, had a meeting yesterday [7 June] evening with His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the meeting, the prime minsiter acquainted His Excellency Shaykh Sayid Bin Sultan on the latest developments of the situation in Yemen. He also explained to him the aims of his current tour of a number of Arab countries concerned with solving the Yemeni crisis.

During the meeting, His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan expressed his sorrow for the continuation of the fighting and the danger of the escalation of the tragic situation in Yemen. He also expressed his hope that the Sanaa rulers will respond to the Security Council resolution which stipulates an immediate cease-fire and puts an end to the bloodshed in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Al-Jifri Visits Aden Governorate, Abyan Front

EA0906101094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, accompanied by brothers Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, member of the Presidential Council, and 'Abd-al-Qawi Muhammad Rashad, member of the Presidium of the National Assembly, this

morning made an inspection tour of several residential quarters in Crater, al-Mansurah, Shaykh 'Uthman, and Dar Sa'd in Aden Governorate. He also visited a number of police stations and acquainted himself with how daily life was proceeding and with the concerns and problems affecting the inhabitants as the result of their water supplies being cut. He also acquainted himself with the state of homes that had been damaged as the result of the random shelling by the [word indistinct] of the ruling military regime in Sanaa, to which a number of peaceful and innocent citizens had fallen victim.

The deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and those accompanying him also visited the Abyan front and met the commanders of the axis. They acquainted themselves with the progress of operations on the front, expressing the appreciation of the political leadership with the heroic steadfastness of those defending the territory of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and in defense of its brave people.

YSP Member Holds Town Meeting After Shelling

EA0906100594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Sayf Sayil Khalid, Politburo member and member of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], met today with the citizens of the town of Dar Sa'd following the haphazard artillery shelling launched from the Sanaa regime, which targeted the populated living quarters in the town of Dar Sa'd. Some families and innocent children were victims of this shelling. Dr. Sayf Sayil praised the high morale of the citizens and their persistence and readiness to resist in the face of the conspirators on the security, stability, and welfare of the people.

In this connection he called for the necessity of organizing the popular resistance to protect our beautiful city against the conspiracies of the enemies. He said: We will not allow Aden to be occupied, no matter what. He emphasized that the citizens of the capital, Aden, are considered to come from all the villages and regions of Yemen and that going to the resistance fronts reflects the real pattern of unity of the sons of the Yemeni people.

In the context of his talk with the citizens of the sons of Dar Sa'd, Dr. Sayf Sayil indicated that the inhabitants, men and women, all of them joined the Armed Forces to defend Aden. He said that this mad war had targeted the Yemeni people, whether on a human, economic or military scale. The instigators and causers of this war will be cursed by history, he said, adding that the will of the people is stronger than the will of the crazy adventurous rulers. Victory will be only with the people, he said.

Aden Radio Alleges Military Split in Sanaa

EA0806191394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Our informed military sources in Sanaa inform that there is an obscure difference between the ranks of the commanders and officers in north Yemen on the issue of the failed war which was led by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih against the people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. The information says that secret meetings were held during the last three days between the groups of the non-Sanhanian [not further identified] commanders, which made 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issue orders to collect all the forces and means that remain with him and to raise his photographs [as heard] on them in 48 camps in an attempt to delude the others that he is still strong after it had become certain to him that his recent directives to enter Aden had failed. The sources confirmed that time for 'Ali Salih is no more gold [as heard] and he is now thinking of what will secure the establishment of the regime of the iron fist in Sanaa.

Aden Reports Sanaa's 'Intense' Contacts With Iran

EA0806185694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Informed diplomatic and political sources in Aden are certain that Iran's vigorous pursuit of the question of the islands and its threats against the United Arab Emirates [UAE] come within the framework of the total coordination, alliance, and solidarity between this state, known for its stern fundamentalist system, and the military ruling regime in Sanaa, which is backed by the tribal fundamentalist and extremist Reform Party. This party is known for its close links with the jihad movement and fundamentalist groups in the Arab states and elsewhere in the world. These sources express the view that constant and intense contacts are being maintained between the governments in Iran and Sanaa within a period of less than a week.

In this respect the two foreign ministers have met while officials in Sanaa, the last of whom was 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, the secretary general of the Reform Party, have met the Iranian ambassador more than three times. The sources stress that the pressure brought to bear on the UAE is an attempt to shift it away from the clear stances it has adopted towards the destructive war launched by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih against the people in the south of Yemen. The sources are surprised by this alliance now formed between Iran and Sanaa, recalling that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stood strongly on the side of Iraq during its war with Iran and sent to Iraq over 10 brigades to fight on Iraq's side against Iran.

South Alleges North Executing Commanders

EA0906104094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Eyewitnesses have confirmed that the head of the ruling regime in Sanaa, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has personally executed a number of his military commanders and officers whom he had sent to the battlefronts, particularly those whose forces were routed under the blows of the forces of the young Democratic Republic of Yemen. The eyewitnesses, who arrived in Aden from Sanaa, said

that the criminal, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, had executed a number of commanders of the fronts in Kharaz, Karish, Tawr al-Bahah and Hadramawt. The eyewitnesses also confirmed that the fundamentalist, Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, and the criminal Muhammad Abdallah Salih, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's brother, have executed many of the commanders and officers of the units providing supplies, provisions and communications after their failure to provide their units with the necessary supplies for the fighting, which was thought to last less than 24 hours.

YSP Said Holding Jordanian Citizens as 'Hostages'

JN0906090394 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Aden—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the security organs in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in Aden have arrested a number of Jordanians and prevented Jordanian families from leaving Aden for Jordan, under the pretext that Jordan is participating in the war at the side of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. It has also been learned that Jordan is holding intensive contacts through other parties to release the Jordanian nationals held as hostages.

Legal Jordanian sources said: What Aden has done is strange and a violation of international law. The sources added that the Jordanians are defenseless and have not participated in the war. Consequently, the sources said, the safety of the Jordanian nationals is the responsibility of the authorities in the south who should not restrict the movement of or arrest those Jordanians.

Citizens Asked To Report on 'Destructive' Activities

EA0806205094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The Ministries of Defense and Interior and Security have praised the efforts of citizens in the various governorates of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], who are discharging their national duties with a high degree of responsibility, bringing to realization the noble national unity for our people in the DRY, supporting the DRY by supporting the Armed Forces and the security forces. The two ministries call on all the citizens to report any destructive activities on the part of the remnants of the mercenaries of the al-Ahmar gang in any area, particularly in those areas currently being liberated and mopped up to get rid of these remnants.

Death of Jihad Amir in Hadramawt Battle Reported

EA0906100094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The Amir of Jihad Barasin has been killed in battle in Hadramawt. An authoritative source at the military and administrative joint command of the coast of Hadramawt that the so-called Amir of Jihad in the Republic, Ahmad Barasin, alias Abu Mahdi, was killed on 7 June in the battle which took place between our heroic forces and the enemy group which tried to infiltrate the Hadramawt Province. The source added that the group, which was led by Barasin, was routed. It is noteworthy to recall that Barasin was one of the leaders of the so-called al-Jihad Organization in Yemen. He was accused of the terrorist explosions which took place in the provinces of the republic in previous years.

Two Northern Aircraft Said Shot Down Over Aden

NC0906103894 Paris AFP in English 1016 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 9 (AFP)—Two northern warplanes were shot down on Thursday [9 June] as they bombed Aden airport in south Yemen, witnesses said.

Four planes bombed the airport area, but one slammed into the sea and a second crashed into the city's residential Shaykh 'Usman district after running into anti-aircraft fire, they said.

Northern warplanes launched a second raid half an hour later.

There were no immediate details of casualties.

Southern warplanes based at the airport have taken part in bombing runs to try to stop the northern advance on Aden which was declared the capital of an independent state last month.

South Reports Air Raids on Little Aden, Injuries

EA0806163094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Air Force of the al-Ahmar gang today made three air raids on the city of Little Aden [west of Aden] targeting the residential quarters of the peaceful citizens. Our air defenses succeeded in shooting at least one aircraft down, prompting the rest to flee. As a result of this indiscriminate attack on the town, a number of children were seriously injured and they have been taken to the hospital. [passage omitted]

Northern Attacks Reportedly Repelled

EA0806164094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry"; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Our air, naval, and ground Armed Forces have repulsed the iniquitous and aggressive and treacherous attacks launched by the military ruling regime in Sanaa today on all fronts. Our forces were able on the Abyan, Karish, Tawr al-Bahah, and Kharaz fronts to defeat the invading aggressors having delivered against them crushing blows and inflicting on them the following human and material losses: four enemy aircraft shot

down, the destruction of three tanks, six Katyusha rocket-launching vehicles, and three (Dushka) crews; five tanks, four Katyusha-launching vehicles, and three crews captured; hundreds of enemy officers and men killed, and numbers of others captured or surrendered. Our heroic forces continue decisively to repulse and pursue the remnants of conspiracy, aggression, and invasion pressed by the military ruling regime in Sanaa on all the battlefronts for the 45th day since the start of their aggressive destructive war against our people. [passage omitted]

Oil Reportedly Being Marketed Via 'Front Companies'

LD0806131694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Walid Abi-Murshid: "Iraqi Plan To Market Oil Via Foreign Front Companies"]

[Text] London—Well-informed Iraqi sources stress that Baghdad has begun to implement a new marketing strategy for its oil sales under the direct supervision of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son, 'Udayy.

The new marketing policy relies on Iraqi-Iranian cooperation in connection with export facilities and on a network of front companies registered abroad as foreign companies, even though they are in practice owned by the Iraqi Government.

To this end the Iraqi Oil Ministry has set up two broker companies abroad under foreign names: the first in Amman to represent the seller (the Iraqi Government) and the second in Cyprus, headed by an Iraqi citizen, to represent the buyer. Under this arrangement Iraqi oil deals are concluded directly between the broker company in Amman (represented in the Iraqi Oil Ministry) and the Cypriot broker company (represented in the buyers) with a view to conceal the source of the oil sold.

The Iraqi sources say that the first deal concluded by the two companies in question involves exporting 6 million tons per year of Iraqi crude oil—that is equivalent to 120,000 barrels a day—at a value reaching $360 million. The price in this deal is set at $10 a barrel (provided it is changed according to market price fluctuations). Baghdad gets $5 from the price and Iran $3, on the basis that the Iraqi oil is transported to Iran either by land or sea—via Umm Qasr port—and then re-exported via Bandar-e Khomeyni.

As for the buyers, they consist of two quarters so far: a consortium comprising several international companies and an export and import company owned by East Europeans who have been dealing with Baghdad since the days of the Eastern bloc. They are now playing the role of broker between Baghdad and their governments.

The deal with the East European team includes exporting arms and military spares to Iraq in return for oil imported by the Cyprus-based company.

The Iraqi sources say that the Iraqi contract with the buying party includes opening a letter of credit by the buyer in a certain bank in Paris.

After the buyer receives the bill of lading, he orders the transfer of the sum to be paid to the Cyprus-based company's account in the same bank.

The Iraqi sources add that most of these sums are diverted to finance the Iraqi armament plan.

Maltese Ship Carrying Rice Docks at Umm Qasr

JN0206180794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] The Maltese-flagged [name indistinct] ship, which is carrying large quantities of Thai rice imported for the Trade of Ministry, has docked at Umm Qasr Port.

INA's correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate reported that workers at the pier started immediately to unload the shipment and transport it to warehouses in the governorate.

Saddam Addresses Journalists on Role of Media

JN0806192094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said: At this stage, it has become clear to everyone that the leadership has begun to take care of some details. This change is for known reasons, the most important of which is that the leadership does not want the negative details of life to turn into a phenomena leading to laxity and apathy toward solvable issues. In life, he who believes in grand principles should not say that there are insoluble issues. It could be that not all matters are as one might wish, but nothing is insoluble. Some solutions may need time and capabilities that happen to be unavailable. But to impair the human will, this will lead to impotence, which starts as a feeling and turns into an effect with universal impact. Therefore, it is impermissible for the Ba'th state to age, grow old, or become flabby. It should remain youthful and wise at the same time.

These remarks were made during a meeting between the leader president and a number of writers, journalists, and editors in chief. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information; 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, head of the Cultural Forum in Iraq; and Nuri Najm al-Marsumi and Naji Sabri al-Hadithi, under secretaries of the Ministry of Culture and Information, attended the meeting.

His excellency, may God watch over him, added: Based on this, the leadership began to take care of issues that used to be within the tasks of ministers or directors general. This is because when small things impact on large and medium issues concerning the peoples' psychological makeup, and impact real life on the level of economics and politics, then the leaderships' actions derive their legitimacy from what we have just described in the people's life. The leadership wants the people to be happy. In accordance with our concept, happiness does not always come from material life, but when the stage and circumstances affects the material life of the people, it is necessary for the leadership to play a role in generating a feeling of happiness.

His excellency said: Within the historical context of rights and duties, the Iraqis have proven that they are qualified to do their duties, and that they deserve to

enjoy their rights. Here, there will be no need to invoke history to interpret citizens' stands in light of the past, but this needs constant awareness. Under difficult circumstances, if awareness is not as it should be, there will be no strength to overcome an ordeal or a difficult circumstance, even though there is genuineness.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with a host of issues related to citizens' lives and daily affairs, the role of media in providing the citizens with new information and analyses, and in bolstering their awareness in a way to promote their strength and determination to overcome the effects of the unjust blockade on our great Iraq.

German Parliamentary Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

Received by Assembly Speaker

JN0706152094 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 7 (INA)—Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today Mr. Hans Sterchen, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the German parliament.

Mr. Salih reviewed the dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist reactionary plots against Iraq to impair the unity of its people and territories in an attempt to stop its development drive in all spheres.

He pointed out to the impact of the continued sanctions which imposed on the Iraqi people and their suffering because of the sharp shortage in medicine and equipments.

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and his delegation expressed the hope that the unjust sanctions would be lifted in order to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

During the meeting both sides also discussed the parliamentary relations between Iraq and Germany.

The German parliamentary delegation arrived in Baghdad earlier today on several days visit at the invitation of the National Assembly.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Mr. Sterchen expressed his delight for visiting Iraq which he described as a country of civilizations and history across the ages.

He added that during his visit he would hold talks with the Iraqi officials on best ways to restore the relations between Iraq and Germany, stressing that Iraq could play a prominent role to serve peace and security in the region.

He concluded by saying that the German delegation would extend help to Iraq in the health and medical fields to ease the impact of the sanctions.

Received by Saddam

JN0806155894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Hans Sterchen, chairman of the German Bundestag's Foreign Policy Committee, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Confers With al-Sahhaf

JN0706192894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1828 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met this evening with the visiting German parliamentary delegation, led by Dr. Hans Sterchen, chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Policy Committee.

The minister discussed with the guest delegation the negative impact of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. The blockade, he said, continues although Iraq met the obligations stated in UN resolutions.

The two sides exchanged views on several issues of mutual interest. Sterchen stressed eagerness to strengthen contacts between Iraq and Germany.

Received by 'Aziz

JN0706195594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1916 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received today the visiting German parliamentary delegation led by Hans Sterchen, chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Policy Committee.

They discussed relations between Iraq and Germany and stressed the need to restore them to normalcy in order to serve national interests of both peoples and countries. The meeting also tackled Iraq's relations with the Security Council, as well as the need to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

German Deputy: Companies Ready To Resume Work

JN0806163294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Dr. Ahmad Murtada, minister of transport and communications, today met with Dr. Erich Ridi [name as transliterated], member of the German Bundestag and the chairman of its Financial Committee.

During the meeting, Ridi expressed German companies' readiness to resume their activities in Iraq and to offer their expertise in all fields, especially in the fields of transport and communications.

He said that Iraq is a friend of Germany, and that it is very useful to deal with it. He commended the relations of friendship between the German and Iraqi peoples.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, especially in the fields of transport and communications.

Austrian Magazine Says Saddam in Poor Health

NC0806170494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Austrian magazine [word indistinct] says that Saddam Husayn has been suffering for a few months from constant vomiting [words indistinct] heart disease. The magazine, in its issue published last week, cites (?Palestinian) physicians in Baghdad that Saddam recently suffered from fainting fits and the inability to stand up and concentrate. In the past few days, he has (?had to cancel some of his public activities).

New Fighting Threatens Kurd Agreement

PM0806170094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Fierce Fighting in Northern Iraq Threatens To Torpedo Reconciliation Between Kurds"]

[Excerpts] London—Fierce fighting broke out yesterday in northern Iraq and seemed to threaten collapse of the reconciliation agreement between Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. A source close to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Talabani) has told AL-HAYAH that "forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Barzani) as well as Islamic Movement forces and Iranian forces launched a major attack at dawn on the city of Qal'at Dizah" which is under the control of the PUK forces.

Meanwhile, Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], has rejected Presidential Council Member Barzani's proposal calling for Iraqi Kurdistan to be declared a demilitarized "UN protectorate." In a statement to AL-HAYAH from his headquarters in Salah-al-Din, al-Naqib said that "any international trusteeship over any part of Iraq would not solve the internal problems, even if it did not further complicate these problems." He emphasized that "the real solution to the Kurdish question must be within a national unified Iraqi framework." [passage omitted]

Al-Naqib said that "the recent regrettable incidents between the Kurdish brothers prove that the only way to solve problems is dialogue and negotiation. That is one of the lessons which must be learned about settling differences between Kurdish and non-Kurdish patriotic opposition forces." He urged the Kurds to "show wisdom and farsightedness, let reason and logic prevail, and give priority to the main struggle against the dictatorial regime over the secondary conflicts." [passage omitted]

In al-Naqib's view, "the real solution to the Kurdish question must be within a national unified Iraqi framework acceptable to the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and minorities—and enjoying regional and international support." [passage omitted]

On the fighting which flared up again yesterday, a source close to the PUK said that "the joint attack launched by the KDP, the Islamic Movement, and Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces is supported by artillery batteries and rocket launchers in the Iranian area of Sar Dasht. The PUK forces have succeeded in recapturing the city of Qal'at Dizah (5 km from the Iraqi-Iranian border) whose inhabitants had to move out as a result of heavy shelling." He added that "the three forces on Monday attacked the cities of Sayyid Sadiq and Banjwin east of al-Sulaymaniyah and were defeated by the PUK forces."

He admitted that "the fierce battles" threaten to torpedo the reconciliation agreement reached between Barzani and Talabani after last month's fighting between their parties.

Fighting Continues in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN0906100194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq, 9 Jun (INA)—Pitched fighting has continued in various areas in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate between Jalal Talabani's troops on the one hand, and the forces of the so-called Islamic Movement and the gunmen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party allied with it on the other.

Today's edition of the newspaper AL-'IRAQ published here today quoted news reports originating in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate as saying that the most violent battles witnessed there were those waged in Qal'at Dizah, Banjwin, and Halabjah. The reports added that the gunmen of Mas'ud Barzani managed to kick Jalal Talabani's loyalists out of Qal'at Dizah and completely occupy the entire city after killing several of these loyalists. Jalal Talabani's loyalists fled the city, leaving behind them the bodies of their dead and wounded. Moreover, hundreds of citizens fled the city to neighboring villages and mountain caves, seeking shelter and safety.

The news reports also confirmed that battles continued in the areas surrounding the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The elements of the so-called Islamic Movement, which supports Mas'ud's group, are attempting to control some areas inside the city of al-Sulaymaniyah, the reports added. Tension and fear spread to other areas and places in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan because of the mistrust between the two groups of Mas'ud and Jalal.

Allied Use of Arab Facilities Protested

Arab League Informed of 'Violations'

JN0606115794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League General Secretariat against the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraq's airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said these aircraft continued their violation of Iraqi airspace during the period 24-31 May. They carried out 352 sorties flying from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter be circulated, along with a list detailing the violations, to the Arab member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

UN Informed of Airspace 'Breachings'

JN0406121894 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] New York, June 4 (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations over continued breachings of its airspace by the American warplanes with purpose of provocation and surveillance and also dropping the flares.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General, Dr. Butrus Ghali, Iraq's U.N. ambassador said that these warplanes had carried out a total of 681 sorties on May 20-31 over vast areas in the north and the south of the country and also violated the sound barrier and dropped flares that damaged the crops.

Allied Aircraft Reportedly Drop Flares

JN0706111894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0926 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, 7 Jun (INA)—On 3 June, the aircraft of the vile 30-state aggression dropped four flares southeast of the headquarters of the 3d Army Corps in the al-Dayr area in the al-Basrah Governorate, east of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

An INA correspondent in the al-Basrah Governorate said that the four flares which were dropped by the evil planes extinguished in the air.

Cabinet Discusses Ministry Report on Grain

JN0406095994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 May 94 p 4

[Text] The cabinet held its ordinary weekly session yesterday under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir. The prime minister began the meeting by extending in his name and on behalf of the ministers 'Id greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, wishing his excellency continued good health and happiness and the Iraqis more pride and progress under his leadership.

The cabinet then discussed the items on its agenda. The most important item was a study prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture on the situation and production methods of winter grain in Iraq. The report included average yield, production, marketed quantities of wheat and barley, and proposals.

The cabinet adopted the necessary decisions and recommendations in this regard.

Governors Urge Speeding Up Harvest and Marketing

JN0406182094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 May 94 p 4

[Text] Intensive efforts are being exerted in all governorates to complete the harvest and marketing of wheat and barley. Meetings are being held and measures are being taken to provide the requirements for completing this national campaign on time.

In Baghdad, Governor Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi, who is also chairman of the governorate's Harvest and Marketing Committee, discussed the progress of the harvest and marketing campaign and the execution percentage with the heads of the administrative areas.

During the meeting, which was attended by the comrades secretaries of al-Rashid and Abu-Ja'far al-Mansur party branches, the conferees said it is essential for the heads of administrative areas to personally follow the harvest and marketing campaign, observe any obstacles, overcome them, and punish those held responsible.

In Ninawa, efforts continue to carry out the wheat and barley harvest and marketing campaign in the administrative areas in the governorate. Comrade Ahmad Khalaf Hamadah, secretary of the al-Walid group in the Mosul party branch, told AL-THAWRAH that the barley harvest has reached 80 percent in Tall 'Afar District and al-'Ayadiya region, and 20 percent in Rabi'ah and Zamar areas. He said efforts are still being intensified to finish the wheat harvest on time.

The committee supervising the harvest and marketing campaign in Dhi Qar held an expanded meeting to discuss the campaign and the stages which have been covered so far. During this meeting, which was attended by Governor Salah 'Abbud Mahmud and heads of the

administrative areas, the conferees affirmed the role of the subcommittees in following up the work of harvesters throughout the day and to urge and compel peasants and farmers to market all their crop and to take firm measures against those who fail to do so.

The campaign for harvesting wheat and barley began in the plantations of al-Suwayyib, Saddamiyat al-Qurnah, and al-Nashwah in al-Basrah Governorate yesterday. During his supervision of the farmers, Governor Lutayyif Mahal Humud called for the best and maximum use of agricultural machines and for manual harvest of smaller areas.

Al-Muthanna Governorate has carried out 70 percent of the manual harvest of wheat and barley in the al-Samawah, al-Rumaythah, and al-Khadir Districts, and in the al-Majd, al-Hilal, al-Warka', and al-Najmi Subdistricts. Governor Muhsin Khadir al-Khafaji said harvest operations are continuing to cover the remaining areas. He said 32 harvesters are being used daily to carry out the harvest in all areas on time. He said the current grain season is excellent thanks to the great efforts exerted by the agricultural committees in order to achieve self-sufficiency and to abort the unfair blockade on our struggler people.

Cooperative Official Urges Greater Harvest Efforts

JN0406160894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 May 94 p 4

[Report by Qasim al-Ma'mar]

[Text] Our righteous peasants and farmers are making greater efforts in the general national campaign to harvest wheat and barley in all parts of the country.

Sajar Zubayr Ja'atah, president the General Federation of Cooperative Peasant Societies, told AL-THAWRAH: The necessary measures have been taken to bring this campaign to a successful conclusion. Supervisory committees have been set up and Executive Bureau members have been appointed in various governorates to coordinate with the local federation branches and unions on how to overcome any obstacles facing the campaign.

Ja'atah added: Priority has been given to the manual harvesting of small plots belonging to families of martyrs, POW's, and the missing in action. The mechanized harvesting of large areas of wheat and barley is continuing at the same time.

Ja'atah called on peasants and farmers to work to complete the harvest by the established deadlines, avoid waste, sell all their crops to the receiving stores, centers, and silos, and block those who tamper with prices and those who hesitate to market their crop.

The president of the federation praised the unlimited care and attention given by the beloved leader of the people Saddam Husayn to the agricultural sector. He pointed out that meritorious prizes and rewards will be given to outstanding peasants in the harvest and marketing operations, according to the rules.

Preparations for Rice Growing Season in al-Najaf

JN0406094694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 25 May 94 p 12

[Excerpt] Agricultural departments in al-Najaf Governorate have begun plowing the areas where wheat and barley have just been harvested in order to prepare them for the cultivation of rice. The necessary requirements have been provided, including fertilizers, seeds, and plowing machines. Meetings and discussions are also being held to adopt scientific methods of cultivation, and peasants and farmers are being urged to redouble their efforts in order to cultivate vast areas of land. [passage omitted]

Report on Agricultural Bank Loans to Farmers

JN0406094294 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 May 94 p 12

[Text] Loans granted by branches of the Cooperative Agricultural Bank in Diyala Governorate during the last four months have reached 1,660,120 dinars. The loans granted to peasants and farmers were used for different agricultural purposes as follows: 750,000 dinars for carrying out animal resources projects and for poultry farms, 650,800 dinars for well drilling, and 260,120 dinars for purchasing agricultural equipment and developing orchards.

Paper Reports on Harvest in Governorates

JN0206112694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 May 94 p 4

[Article by AL-THAWRAH correspondents]

[Text] The country's governorates are currently witnessing great efforts and intensive activities to carry out the plan for harvesting and marketing wheat and barley. Governors are following up operations and officials are holding meetings and making field visits to meet the requirements of the campaign.

In Najaf, the mechanized harvest of wheat and barley, which began on 25 April and continued for 25 days, was completed yesterday. Governor Karim Hasan Rida, who is also chairman of the Higher Harvest Committee, said the committee followed the progress of the campaign through seven subcommittees and that 13,000 peasants and farmers and 169 harvesters took part in the campaign.

In Babil, Iskandariyah Subdistrict witnessed a large-scale campaign for the mechanized harvest of wheat and barley. Several harvesters were used in the campaign, which was supervised by Governor al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali and the comrade secretary of the Babil party branch.

In Diyala, the Higher Harvest and Marketing Committee held a meeting with harvester owners and agricultural teams to discuss the progress of the campaign, the obstacles facing this campaign, and the means of overcoming them. During this meeting, which was attended by Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif Qitan, the conferees affirmed the importance of operating harvesters at full capacity and carrying out the plan of maneuvering these harvesters from one area to another in order to cover the entire cultivated area, complete the campaign on time, and ensure all the other requirements.

In Dhi Qar, the agricultural committees supervising the campaign for harvesting wheat and barley continue their expanded meetings to discuss the progress of the campaign. A meeting attended by Governor Salah 'Abbud affirmed the importance of using harvesters in the most efficient manner possible, to maneuver these harvesters from one administrative unit to another, and to urge the peasants to sell all of their crop to the marketing centers. The committees in charge of the marketing centers have also been instructed to pay the prices of the crops to the peasants and farmers on the spot.

In another development, title deeds for 380 housing plots have been distributed to deserving families in al-Rifa'i District. The distribution took place at a ceremony during which the beneficiaries expressed their great appreciation to leader President Saddam Husayn. In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, Dhi Qar Governor Salah 'Abbud praised the efforts being exerted to prepare as many housing plots as possible so that they can be distributed to other beneficiaries this year.

Agricultural teams in Karbala' Governorate have carried out 80 percent of the campaign for harvesting and marketing wheat and barley. Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz said the governorate has made all the necessary preparations to complete the campaign even before the deadline. He added that the governorate has assigned four marketing centers in the provincial capital, 'Ayn al- Tamr, and al-Hindiyah districts and al-Husayniyah subdistrict.

The campaign for harvesting and marketing wheat and barley continues in Ninawa Governorate. Governor 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat, who is also head of the agricultural committee, supervised the harvest and marketing operations in Sinjar and al-Ba'aj Districts. During a meeting with peasants and farmers, the governor called for redoubled efforts to complete the mechanized harvest and to deliver the crops to the receiving centers so as to ensure food for the sons of the steadfast Iraqi people. The meeting was attended by the comrade secretaries of Ninawa and Musul party branches.

Paper Reports on Harvest in Dhi Qar

JN0406095694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 May 94 p 12

[Text] Peasants and farmers in Dhi Qar Governorate have carried out 36 percent of the manual harvest and 25 percent of mechanized harvest of wheat and barley projected for this season. The peasants and farmers are continuing to market their crops in the marketing centers of al-Nasiriyah, al-Sudaynawiyah, al-Shatrah, al- Fajr, al-Rifa'i, al-Dawwayah, al-Islah, and al-Batha' areas, where the committees supervising those centers pay the prices of the crops directly to the peasants and farmers.

Jerusalem Sees Washington Talks as 'Breakthrough'

TA0906085294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem perceives the Washington encounter as a genuine breakthrough between Israel and Jordan. The breakthrough was manifested in the agreement to set up working groups on specific issues, and especially the agreement to move the talks to Elat and al-'Aqabah.

Political elements said that following Israeli-Jordanian contacts held before the encounter, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin consented to discuss borders—an issue which Israel had earlier opposed discussing—while Jordan consented in principle to move the talks to the region. [passage omitted]

A senior Foreign Ministry source said, however, that the process would be long, possibly a year or two. He explained that objective difficulties, such as border demarcation and water resources control are part of the cause, but mainly he based his estimates on the assumption that al-Asad will not permit Husayn to clinch a separate deal with Israel.

What caused the turnabout in King Husayn's foreign policy? Jerusalem elements point to several reasons. King Husayn believes that a breakthrough on the Israeli-Syrian track is imminent. He, too, is aware of the intensive U.S. mediation, and he is afraid of being left out of the process. Syria, too, finds the presence of another partner convenient. Members of the Israeli delegation to talks with Jordan, who returned home last night, said their impression from the encounter with the Jordanians was that al-Asad had given Husayn a green light to make progress, albeit up to a certain point only, because he is not about to allow Jordan to sign a separate peace agreement.

An additional reason has to do with the Palestinians. Husayn, who was skeptical about the Israeli-PLO agreement, is now witnessing the implementation of that agreement, and he does not want facts—particularly in the economic sphere—to be established on the ground without his involvement and without consideration for Jordanian interests.

Beilin Interviewed on Jordan, Syrian Talks

TA0806183194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shlomo Ganor, in the studio on 8 June—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Dr. Beilin, what agreements were reached between the Israeli and Jordanian delegations in Washington during their two-day session?

[Beilin] I think that a much more solid common denominator was reached, an additional tier was laid for the Declaration of Principles signed on 14 September last year. The most important thing is that the talks will continue next month in our region, apparently both in Jordan and in Israel. I hope that the proximity of the talks will also make them more intensive and that we will be able to reach agreement on all the issues on the agenda in the next few months.

[Ganor] To what do you attribute the change in the Jordanian position?

[Beilin] I do not regard myself as an expert on Jordanian affairs. Last September I thought we would be able to score quick progress. For some reason, it was the Jordanians that slowed down the rate of progress. I am glad that today they are willing to facilitate the process, and I hope this will end in a peace agreement with us.

[Ganor] Does the change in the Jordanian position indicate that a similar change can be expected to take place in the Syrian position?

[Beilin] I find it difficult to believe that the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian tracks are unrelated. I believe that we have a very good chance of reaching an agreement with Syria within a relatively short period of time, that is, within several months, because we have a common denominator regarding three issues: A willingness to reach peace; a willingness to implement a withdrawal on the Golan Heights; and a willingness to have intensive U.S. involvement in order to facilitate the process. Granted all this, I believe it will be possible to complete the whole process.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 8 June adds: "U.S. and Israeli sources say that Syria will agree to move the talks with Israel to our region in the near future and hold them in al-Qunaytirah on the Golan Heights and possibly in Tiberias as well. The sources added that Jordan's agreement to hold the talks in al-'Aqabah and Elat was given only after receiving the OK from Damascus."] [passage omitted]

Gur Denies Syrian Influence on Jordan

TA0906085694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Ya'aqov Eylon and Mikhal Gazit; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Eylon] Mr. Gur, is the attitude emanating from Amman inspired by Damascus?

[Gur] No. Unfortunately, Damascus is still unyielding. So far the Damascus attitude has been projected through

the actions of Hizballah, rather than peaceful advances. That is why I attach such great significance to the Jordanian awakening.

[Gazit] Do you really believe Jordan awakened of its own accord, that it was not affected by the green light it has reportedly received from al-Asad?

[Gur] It is my opinion that it was an independent Jordanian decision. I do not know how far-reaching their decision is, but it is definitely not the result of Syrian prodding. I hope it will mature and progress. If it affects Syria in a positive direction, it will be doubly welcome. For myself, I see it as a new line adopted by Jordan, which does not want to be left out of the process—which could happen, what with the continuing implementation of the arrangement between us and the Palestinians.

[Eylon] What they do want, Mr. Gur, is 320 square km between the port of al-'Aqabah and the Dead Sea.

[Gur] I am very well acquainted with the disputed issues. All these issues can be settled. I can tell you in no uncertain terms that there is no reason why Israel and Jordan should not reach an understanding quite quickly for the benefit of both sides. As far as Israel is concerned, such an understanding is important for the future of the negotiations with the Palestinians too, because it opens up new, important, and very consequential options for the next phases of negotiations. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Seen Behind Change in Jordanian Stand

TA0806151994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] The United States is drafting its own proposal for an Israeli-Syrian peace arrangement, in an attempt to break the impasse in the peace negotiations between the two countries. Information recently obtained by senior officials in Jerusalem indicates that the U.S. peace team is now formulating the U.S. position on issues disputed by Jerusalem and Damascus, although the administration has not decided yet whether the U.S. intervention should start as soon as during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming shuttle tour scheduled for the end of June, or whether it would be preferable to wait till the end of the summer.

It was further revealed that yesterday, senior U.S. Administration officials told Israeli officials that Damascus had encouraged Jordan to launch normalization moves with Israel at once, in a bid to prepare the ground for Syrian advancement toward a peace agreement with Israel. [passage omitted]

Information reaching Jerusalem indicates that the emerging U.S. Administration proposal is based on the premise that Israel will withdraw from the entire Golan Heights; it focuses on detailed specifications of security arrangements, normalization steps, and arrangement implementation timetables.

The administration is currently weighing whether Christopher's upcoming tour is the right time to present the U.S. position. According to information received in Jerusalem, Dennis Ross favors immediate U.S. intervention, while the secretary of state prefers to let Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "stew in their own juices" for two or three more months, until they either agree to relinquish their rigid stances or ask for U.S. intervention in the negotiations.

U.S. and Israeli sources are convinced that Syria is behind the positive change in Jordan's stand at the tripartite talks in Washington. They believe that President al-Asad does not want to launch rapprochement steps with Israel before Jordan, and his positive signals to Jordan gave rise to expectations for a crucial development in the upcoming meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

Syrian National Suspected of Infiltration Held

TA0906103294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Muhammad Ibrahim, a 29-year-old Syrian citizen, was detained for 15 days on the orders of the 'Akko Magistrate's Court. The young man surrendered himself to Israel Defense Forces forces three days ago.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Syrian man is suspected of infiltrating Israel. He told the court that he fled Syria so as to receive medical treatment for scars left on his body by electric treatments he had been given by Syrian doctors. The judge ordered that the man be given a medical examination before a verdict is passed.

Rabin: Legislation on Jerusalem Considered

TA0906064094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Me'ir Einstein on 9 June; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Einstein] Mr. Prime Minister, we know the PLO has been trying to establish political facts in Jerusalem. What is the government doing about it?

[Rabin] We launched consultations on the Jerusalem situation two or three weeks ago, even before the public storm broke out. Organizations providing the Palestinian residents of the territories with services have been established over the years; some of them are fully justified. These include the Supreme Islamic Council, which is responsible for Temple Mount, a sacred site frequented by Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and

Gaza. This council has been in charge of religious services since 1967. There is the al-Maqasid Hospital, which has existed under different governments for many years, and which serves residents in and outside East Jerusalem. There are institutions in other fields devoid of any political significance.

We intend to explore the situation. As Israeli law applies to united Jerusalem, we may be forced to initiate special legislation to avert any PLO attempt to set up bodies of governing nature in Jerusalem. The PLO pledged that all Palestinian Authority bodies would be in Jericho during the interim period. We will insist on it even if special legislation is needed to ensure it.

[Einstein] What about Orient House activities?

[Rabin] If Mr. Faysal al-Husayni wants to be member of the Palestinian Authority, he will have to reside in Jericho. If he wishes to remain in Jerusalem, he will have to waive membership in the Palestinian Authority.

[Einstein] Does this mean we are going to close Orient House?

[Rabin] We will check the legal aspects. In fact, the attorney general has been doing it for about two weeks. A discussion on the issue was held in my office and a similar discussion was held at the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. The discussions dealt with moves we should take to ensure that the agreement is adhered to and that all the governing authorities and their institutions be situated in Jericho, and not in Jerusalem during the interim period.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Rabin Criticizes Likud, 'Arafat on Peres Issue

TA0806185794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report]

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin this evening attacked both the Likud and 'Arafat on the East Jerusalem letter issue. He said that the PLO chairman was lying when he spoke about the issue in Johannesburg. Rabin told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik a short time ago that no attempt was made to conceal anything in the Jerusalem letter issue. Rabin says that 'Arafat's remarks constituted a fallacious attempt to create a link between the interim arrangement in the territories and East Jerusalem. Rabin added that whatever is taking place in Jerusalem at the present time is none of the PLO's concern. Rabin added that if Faysal al-Husayni resides in Jerusalem and occupies Orient House he will not be a member of the Palestinian Authority, because a total separation will be preserved between the autonomy areas and East Jerusalem:

[Begin Rabin recording] Wherein did 'Arafat lie? He said he received a letter from us, but no letter was addressed to him regarding Israel's policy in East Jerusalem during the interim arrangement period. Two, he said this issue was linked to the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. This issue was not raised in any form or shape in the negotiations we held with 'Arafat during my visit to Cairo. Three, 'Arafat tried—with the Likud's help—to link the letter sent to the Norwegian foreign minister explaining our policy—as publicly described by the foreign minister in the Knesset—to the Gaza-Jericho First agreement or to the interim arrangement. This is all a lie, and this is what Minister Shahal said. [end recording]

Sharon Rejects Opposition Attacks on Peres

TA0706161094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says he does not understand Likud members' attacks on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for his letter to the Norwegian foreign minister regarding the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Mr. Sharon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that these institutions were established during the tenure of Yitzhaq Shamir's government. According to Sharon he used to raise this issue in almost every government session and demanded a halt to Orient House activity, but most of the ministers used to react by bursting out in laughter.

'Grave Problems' Seen Caused by Peres Letter

TA0806142694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jun 94 p 2

[Editorial: "No Explanation"]

[Text] Yesterday the foreign minister raged and fumed, but failed to convince. The deeper he sank, the more his colleagues deserted him: Shahal denied responsibility, Aloni doubted the merit of his explanation, and the prime minister's bureau was conspicuously silent. The resulting—and well-founded—impression was that the publicized letter was not all there was. That there was more. And if that was not enough, a close perusal of the publicized text of the letter—which was supposed to have been written by experienced diplomats—made one wonder about its grave inconsistencies.

The government's credibility plummeted, and the Jerusalem issue acquired a more critical edge. How valid are the prime minister's pronouncements about "united Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital," when the foreign minister refers to eastern Jerusalem (not even "East Jerusalem") as a distinct unit?

The angry Peres offered no convincing explanations, and certainly no solutions. The grave problems created by his letter, by 'Arafat's interpretation of the letter, and by the circumstances surrounding its nonpublication and publication can be at least partially attenuated by immediate, categorical action, such as a bill banning PLO political activities in Jerusalem and prohibiting the use

of PLO emblems in the city. Yet time is the most crucial factor in this matter. They can do it with utmost speed, if they so wish.

Shetrit, MK's Establish Forum on Jerusalem

TA0806143294 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Jun 94 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] A public forum for Jerusalem was established yesterday in a meeting held in the office of Economy and Planning Minister Prof. Shim'on Shetrit in Jerusalem. The forum is composed of settlement leaders and Labor Knesset members [MK's]. It has been learned that the group drafted a platform for political action for Jerusalem and the Jerusalem precinct.

The forum was launched by the heads of the Jerusalem area local councils of Efrat, 'Etzyon Bloc, Giv'at Ze'ev, and Ma'ale Adumim. Besides Minister Shetrit, the forum includes Deputy Minister Masha Lubelsky and Labor MK's 'Imanu'el Zismann, Rafi Elul, Avigdor Qahalani, Gid'on Sagi, Ya'aqov Shefi, Yoram Lass, Ra'anan Kohen, Yosi Vanunu, Shlomo Buhbut, and Salih Tarif.

Other participants were Reserve Major General 'Uzi Narqis, Prof. Yehoshu'a Porat, Local Authority Center Chairman 'Adi Eldar, Prof. Yitzhaq Parnas, and the mayors of several cities, including Nazareth and Ashqelon.

The participants defined the forum's objective: building up settlements in the Jerusalem environs and creating territorial contiguity from Jerusalem to its surrounding towns and settlements. This is in view of the recent Palestinian pronouncements and attempts to make gains in Jerusalem during the interim period.

The forum demanded that the implementation of the construction plans in local councils around Jerusalem be expedited and additional construction plans be carried out in a bid to create a Jewish territorial contiguity in the Jerusalem district.

'Judaization' of Jerusalem Considered

TA0306182194

[Editorial report] The HA'ARETZ supplement of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 3 June carries a 5,000-word report by Mikhal Peleg on pages 36, 37, 38, and 40, on the issue of Jerusalem.

Peleg asserts that in the 27 years since East Jerusalem was conquered, "Israel has done all it could to make the city one—and Jewish. Yet one united Jerusalem—the only national consensus that survived the evils of conquest—does not exist in reality. In real life, the capital is a patchwork of Jewish neighborhoods densely interspersed with enclaves of alienated Arab population surviving in dire conditions. The border which once separated the two parts of Jerusalem has disintegrated into dozens of border lines of an elusive yet very tangible nature, and they are never crossed. The alienation between the two populations has created a situation no Israeli Government ever intended; construction and development were invested in the judaization of Jerusalem, and the discrimination practiced against the city's Arab residents made them a separate entity. Now it is easy for the Palestinians to demand separation because separation is already there."

Peleg goes on: "The battle for Jerusalem did not end with military occupation. It has been going on since 1967 through vast investments in infrastructure and the expedited construction of Jewish neighborhoods over the entire annexed territory, even at the expense of irreversible damage to scenery and the city's special character. Today, East Jerusalem alone is inhabited by 160,000 Jews, versus about 155,000 Arabs. The takeover campaign is complemented by several steps: a wide-scale expropriation of Arab lands—26,200 dunam to date; systematic restrictions on Arab construction; and the deliberate disregard for basic services to the Palestinian population. Over the years, Jerusalem's Arab residents have opted for passive resistance, which was mainly reflected in the scant participation in municipal elections (6 percent after the outbreak of the intifadah in 1989, less than 10 percent in the last elections)."

Peleg states that Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert believes the unofficial separation between the two parts of Jerusalem is "a temporary situation. Olmert plans to invest in improvements in the Arab city, and he accuses Teddy Kollek of neglecting and totally ignoring the Arab population's needs. He says he needs 140 million shekels of government funds to bring that part of the city up to date."

"Two cities exist side by side in Jerusalem: In one of them, new neighborhoods are built at a rate unparalleled in the entire State of Israel. Thousands of housing units are built and enormous investments are made in infrastructure, roads, landscape planning, street illumination, shopping malls, industrial and trade regions. Israel has built 60,000 housing units for Jews in areas annexed in 1967 alone, and 10,000 more are currently under construction. On the other side, there is another city, which can be hardly called a city. It is made up of isolated enclaves which look like dusty rural areas; one- or two-story houses, hardly any sidewalks, many unpaved roads, few street lights, most of which do not work, several streets sharing a single garbage collection receptacle, no playgrounds or parks."

"Jewish neighborhoods receive electricity from the Israeli Electrical Corporation. Arab neighborhoods receive theirs through the mediation of the East Jerusalem Electricity Company, a Jordanian-owned firm whose plants near Shu'fat were deserted when it was

forced to stop producing power and made to buy it from the Israeli corporation. To reach West Jerusalem and the Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, one uses Egged buses; the Palestinians have buses operated by small private companies from nearby villages, such as Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah."

Peleg maintains that to facilitate Jewish construction in Jerusalem, the government has been expropriating and freezing Arab land. "In addition to the 73,000 dunam annexed in 1967," "26,200 dunam of privately owned Arab land were expropriated in 1968, 1970, 1980, and 1990." To accommodate construction plans, another 2,300 dunam will be expropriated in the near future; tens of thousands of housing units for Jews were built on that land. That was how Gilo, Talpiyyot East, Neve Ya'aqov, Pisgat Ze'ev, and other neighborhoods sprouted. Another 35,000 dunam of unused Arab-owned land in East Jerusalem were frozen, that is, construction is prohibited on them. The Arabs have been left with a 9,500-dunam area on which they may build.

"A method of transferring lands to Jews was established under Teddy Kollek. The method consisted of marking map areas featuring privately owned Arab land in green. This was the sign allegedly indicating that the land was earmarked for public use and parks, and that construction was prohibited there. A few years after the land was marked green, some of it was expropriated and Jewish neighborhoods were built on them. For example, the Rekhes Shu'fat neighborhood, to be inhabited by Canadian ultra-Orthodox Jews, is in initial stages of construction, and planning has begun for two new neighborhoods, Har Homa and Sha'ar Mizrah between Neve Ya'aqov and the French Hill as well as a residential Jewish area in the heart of the Arab Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood."

Peleg adds that while "West Jerusalem has a master plan, all East Jerusalem has are local master plans which, for years, referred only to the Jewish neighborhoods. Only six Arab neighborhoods have received official license to date, while eight others have been waiting for approval for 10 years. In 1980, a municipal committee submitted a plan which indicated a need for 18,000 additional housing units for the city's Arab population. Nothing of this materialized. The Arab population grew from 114,000 in 1980 to 155,500 today. On the basis of five persons to an apartment, about 26,000 housing units for Arabs should have been built in East Jerusalem. As a result of the shortage and the overcrowded conditions, 5,000 housing units were built—many without a license. In 1990, for instance, 3,000 building permits were issued; of these, only 150 were for Arabs. Former city council member Sara Kaminker, who had been Kollek's adviser on Arab neighborhoods until her protest resignation, has amassed information indicating that about 21,000 Jerusalemite Arab families are homeless."

Peleg maintains that "the war over Jerusalem has changed after the Palestinians began, for the first time, to take action to improve their positions. Last November, a committee initiated by Faysal al-Husayni was set up. Its objective is to establish the National Council for Jerusalem-Palestine and to outline an action plan for the interim period. The committee, which is headed by Dr. Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi from PASSIA (Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs), has practically drafted a plan for every municipal council department, from construction planning and infrastructure down to services, such as education, health, culture and religion, public security, and tax collection, including a blueprint for a Palestinian police force in East Jerusalem. PASSIA holds workshops from which local leaders and professional teams are gradually emerging." "In other offices related to Orient House, such as the Palestinian Geographical Center, Israeli takeover of Arab lands is meticulously documented, and each change is immediately noticed. In addition, they draw maps for future negotiations."

Khalil Tufakji, the Palestinian Geographical Center director, "claims that Ehud Olmert is trying to continue the Jewish expansion eastward, to the area outside metropolitan Jerusalem's boundaries, through the Sha'ar Mizrah neighborhood due to be built beyond road No. 9, linking Ma'ale Adumim to Pisgat Ze'ev."

"Palestinians have a vested interest in launching the debate on Jerusalem before the two years stipulated in the agreement are out: Their argument is that by then, they may have no land to discuss. The Israeli Government is also aware of the fact that the mounting tensions in the city and the operation of its Palestinian institutions—most notably Orient House, which even today is acting as a Palestinian municipal center and a quasi Foreign Ministry—will force it to deal with the problem earlier than expected."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Statement on Ron Arad Viewed

TA0706183094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The missing navigator Ron Arad has not been located in Iran. Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani said this in a news conference in Iran today. Rafsanjani emphasized that Iran has nothing to do with Ron Arad's fate. He also surprisingly declared Iran will not oppose the Middle East peace process in practice, despite its opposition in principle to any agreement with Israel.

A senior activist in the organization of Mustafa al-Dirani, who was abducted to Israel, said in Beirut today that Iran is actively aiding any organization hostile to Israel.

In reaction to Rafsanjani's comments, this evening, Israeli security sources said Israel continues to regard Iran and its satellites as responsible for Ron Arad's fate.

IDF Official: PLO, Hamas Goals Remain

TA0706161394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said today that he believes that the basic goals of the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will not change, although they are undergoing a pragmatic adaptation to the political reality. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Gen. Sagi made the remarks at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said he had obtained information from the defense establishment according to which the government intends to free 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, and inquired as to the impact this move would have on the security situation. Gen. Sagi said he cannot deny this information, adding that it is obvious that if those prisoners are released, some of them will engage in terror activity.

Chief of Staff on Peace, Security

TA0706190594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq assesses that within one to one and a half years the political situation will clarify and we will know whether the region's leaders are ready to recognize Israel's security needs and reach normalization with it. If this does not happen, we will reach an impasse, according to the chief of staff. Lieutenant General Baraq also said that even if full peace and security arrangements are achieved, Israel will still need to preserve its military power and superiority for many years to come in the 21st century. He also said that terrorism will accompany us for a long time to come, and that we must also prepare to confront nonconventional dangers emanating from Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the chief of staff was addressing Haifa Technion graduates.

Philippine Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

TA0806124194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo says he will positively recommend to his president Israel Aircraft Industries products, particularly Kfir planes. At the end of his visit he called on Israeli high-tech firms to establish production and marketing systems in the Philippines that could serve as a basis for all Southeast Asia. Romulo also said his country would be glad to help Israel in promoting relations with Muslim states in the area, whom he believed would establish full ties with Israel as the peace process advanced.

Aloni Warns of Labor Party Disintegration

TA0706072194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Minister Shulamit Aloni has said that the Labor party is disintegrating and the functioning of all its bodies has been disrupted. Every wheeler-dealer wants to be a Knesset member and there is unbridled competition between hawks and doves, she said. Aloni cautioned that this disintegration might lead to the collapse of the peace process and to a war in which Egypt would also take part. According to her, Meretz must make the government's basic guidelines more pronounced and make sure that it abides by its commitments.

In response, Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Meretz's peace is not Labor's peace. He noted that Labor had been dealt a blow, but is currently recovering and not disintegrating.

Third Path Movement Warns of Possible 'Revolt'

TA0706161994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The members of the Third Path have said they established their movement in defiance of the Labor Party and their own movement, the United Kibbutz Movement [UKM]. They wish to convey a warning that if Israel does not protect the Golan Heights, their movement will turn into an open revolt against Labor and the UKM, and they will consider establishing an independent party.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that the heads of the Third Path, who are members of the Golan kibbutzim, denied reports alleging they had received financial aid from other parties. According to them, all of their financial assets come from domestic sources, but refused to name them.

Defense Ministry Wants Funds for Gaza Fence

TA0706184494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] Without an additional allocation of 300 million shekels, it will be impossible to complete the Gaza Strip fencing work. Senior defense establishment officials said this yesterday in a special meeting held in the defense minister's bureau attended by the prime minister and finance minister. According to the security officials, the lack of funds prevents progress in the work and approval for the additional funds is essential now. The discussion was not completed yesterday; treasury officials are slated to give their reply early next week.

In a special session convened in Rabin's bureau in Tel Aviv, the heads of the defense establishment—Chief of Staff Baraq, Defense Ministry Director General David

'Ivri, and Brigadier General Mikha'el Navon, the chief of staff's financial adviser—presented their additional budgetary requests to Finance Minister Shohat, Budget Department head David Brodet, and Accountant-General Re'uven Kokolevich. Senior defense establishment sources say the sum required is approximately 300 million shekels, stemming from the high costs of Operation Rainbow—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment plan in Gaza and Jericho. So far, the defense establishment has received an additional allocation of 200 million shekels, based on the understanding that there will be no more financial requests for the redeployment. The costs of Operation Rainbow, however, have grown immensely, and now an additional 300 million shekels are necessary for financing additional portions of the fence surrounding the Qatif Bloc settlements and the fence surrounding the Gaza Strip.

The participants did not enter details concerning the additional budget required, but rather presented it in general terms. Rabin and Shohat agreed that joint Defense Ministry and Finance Ministry teams review the defense establishment's request over the next few days and will submit their conclusions early next week.

Ring Suspected of Selling Weapons to Fugitives

TA0706163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Today, it was revealed that a network of 15 Jewish and Israeli Arab weapons dealers who sold weapons and ammunition to fugitives from the territories has been uncovered. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court today remanded two Netanya shooting gallery owners, Avi Hajaj and Shim'on Farhan, and one of the workers, Yosi Yankelevich. The three are suspected of having sold weapons and ammunition to six Israeli Arabs from al-Tira and Qalansuwa, who in turn sold the weapons to fugitives from Nabulus, Bayt Lahiyah in the Gaza Strip, and Tulkarm.

Royal Decree Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

JN0806161994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1525 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] A royal decree has been issued reshuffling Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's Cabinet as follows:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 35 of the Constitution and upon the recommendation of the prime minister, order the following:

His Excellency Dhuqan al-Hindawi shall be appointed deputy prime minister;
His Excellency 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah shall be appointed minister of education and minister of state for cabinet affairs;
His Excellency Dr. Hisham al-Khatib shall be appointed minister of planning;
His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu shall be appointed minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs;
His Excellency Engineer Samir Qa'war shall be appointed minister of transportation;
His Excellency Dr. Salih Irshaydat shall be appointed minister of water and irrigation;
His Excellency Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah shall be appointed minister of health;
His Excellency Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam shall be appointed minister of youth;
His Excellency Jum'ah Hammad shall be appointed minister of culture;
His Excellency Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas shall be appointed minister of post and communications;
His Excellency 'Adil al-Qudah shall be appointed minister of supply;
His Excellency Dr. Muhammad al-Dhunaybat shall be appointed minister of state for administrative development;
His Excellency Engineer Mansur Bin-Tarif shall be appointed minister of agriculture;
His Excellency Dr. Ratib al-Su'ud shall be appointed minister of higher education;
His Excellency Muhammad al-Dhuwayb shall be appointed minister of state;
His Excellency Tawfiq Kurayshan shall be appointed minister of municipal and rural affairs and environment;
His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi shall be appointed minister of state;
His Excellency Hisham al-Tall shall be appointed minister of justice;
His Excellency Yusuf al-Dalabih shall be appointed minister of state;
His Excellency Talal 'Urayqat shall be appointed minister of energy and mineral resources.

Issued at our Basman Palace in Amman on 28 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 8 June 1994.

Another Royal Decree was issued earlier today accepting the resignation of the following ministers:

His Excellency Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, deputy prime minister;
His Excellency Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education;
His Excellency Tahir Hikmat, minister of justice;
His Excellency Walid 'Asfur, minister of energy of mineral resources;
His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah 'Uwaydat, minister of youth;
His Excellency Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of planning;
His Excellency Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, minister of municipal and rural affairs, and environment;
His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan, minister of agriculture;
His Excellency Radi Ibrahim, minister of supply;
His Excellency Dr. Tariq al-Suhaymat, minister of communications;
His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malhas, minister of health;
His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs;
His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Umari, minister of education;
His Excellency Adib Halasah, minister of transportation;
His Excellency Dr. Amin Mahmud, minister of culture;
His Excellency 'Adil Irshayd, minister of state.

Minister Explains Realignment

JN0806161194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1529 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] With regard to the reasons that necessitated a cabinet reshuffle, Information Minister Dr. Jawad a-'Anani has said:

[Begin al-'Anani recording] We all know that His Majesty King Husayn is eager to have strong cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. In order to promote the Jordanian economy and upgrade the level of its performance and achievement, and also to work out the appropriate legislation required by the coming phase, stronger cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities must be effected. This explains the primary reason for the cabinet reshuffle and the nature of this reshuffle.

Moreover, we know that the entire region will witness developments that have begun to surface as a result of the peace process and the events taking place in the region. In fact, this will basically make Jordan the focus of attention. Jordan will have a clear and effective role in these events. This requires us to pool, unify, and concentrate all our resources and direct them toward continuously making Jordan a strong and impregnable country under its Hashemite leadership. In brief, these are the most important reasons for the cabinet reshuffle. [end recording]

New Cabinet Members Profiled

JN0906095894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following are profiles of ministers appointed to the Cabinet for the first time.

Jum'ah Hammad

Minister of Culture

Born at 'Awja near Beersheva in occupied Palestine in 1923, he completed his seconday education in Gaza in 1943. He became a businessman, and served as director of the Bureau for the Islamic Congress for Jerusalem in 1954. He established AL-MANAR newspaper in Jerusalem in 1961 and was its chief editor and later moved to AL-AKHBAR newspaper in Amman in 1961. He was its chief editor in 1962. He also served as director of AL-DUSTUR daily and chief editor in 1967. He was appointed to the Senate in 1971 and became secretary general of the Arab National Union in 1973 and a member of the National Consultative Council in 1978. He was also director general of the Jordan Press Foundation. He was a member of the Senate until last year.

'Adil al-Qudah

Minister of Supply

Born in Salt in 1939, he finished his secondary education at Salt Secondary School and obtained his bachelors degree in business administration. He obtained his masters in business administration from California State University in the U.S. He worked as director general of the Customs Department, the Income Tax Department and was head of the Audit Bureau until his appointment as minister of supply.

'Abdallah al-Jazi

Minister of State

Born in Udhruh near Ma'an in 1952, he completed his secondary education in Amman. He studied medicine in Cairo and graduated in 1979 to open a private clinic in Amman. He later became director of the Hijaz Railway. He has been secretary general of the Ministry of Post and Communications from 1985 until his appointment as minister of state.

Mansur Bin-Tarif

Minister of Agriculture

Born in Ma'daba in 1939, he obtained a B.A. in agriculture in 1961 from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an M.A. in economics in 1963 also from AUB. He served with the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 1963 until 1966, then as deputy director of the corporation until 1982. he served at the Ministry of Post and Communications. He is a current member of Parliament.

Ratib al-Su'ud

Minister of Higher Education

Born in al-Tafilah in 1955, he obtained a B.A. from the University of Jordan, and an M.A. and doctorate from the University of Southern California in the U.S. His field of study was education. He worked as a teacher for seven years for the Ministry of Education then at Mu'tah University. He is a current member of Parliament.

Hashim al-Dabbas

Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs

Born in Salt, obtained his B.A. in commerce from Cairo University and masters and doctorate degrees from the U.S. in 1963. He served as director of the Department of Statistics in 1970 and later as Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general until 1980, he became head of the Audit Bureau. He is a current member of Parliament.

Yusuf al-Dalabih

Minister of State

He is a career officer who graduated from Sandhurst Military Academy, Britain, in the mid-sixties. He attended advanced military studies at the Royal College of Defense Studies and the Defense College at Camberly, both in Britain. He served as assistant chief of staff of the Armed Forces after which he retired last year as major general. He also served as military secretary to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Hisham al-Tall

Minister of Justice

Born in Irbid in 1942, he finsihed his secondary education at Raghadan School in Amman. He obtained a bachelors degree in law from Damascus University in 1964. He was a practising lawyer until December 1991 when he was appointed a judge at the Higher Court of Justice. Four months ago he was appointed head of the Office of General Administrative Prosecution. Mr. al-Tal is single.

Talal 'Urayqat

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

Born in Abu Dis, Jerusalem in 1945, he completed his secondary education at the Bishop School in Jerusalem before joining the Armed Forces. Holder of a masters degree in military sciences, Mr. 'Urayqat served in the Armed Forces for 30 years before retiring in 1992, ranked brigadier-general. Since 1992 until his appoinment as minister, he served as personal secretary of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. During the course of his military service, he had several training courses in the United Kingdom and the U.S. between 1990-92, he was the Kingdom's military attache in France. He is married with five children.

Muhammad al-Dhunaybat

Minister of State for Administrative Development

Dr. al-Dhunaybat holds a PHD in public administration and was dean of the faculty of public administration at the Jordan University for Women until his appointment as head of the Public Administration Institute in Amman last year.

Crown Prince Hasan Appoints Adviser

JN0806203094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has decided to appoint Dr. Ziyad Fariz as adviser to his highness as of tomorrow, Thursday, 9 June.

Al-Majali on Cabinet Changes, Agreement With Israel

NC0806215894 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Antoine 'Awn, in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] In Amman, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today announced a major reshuffle of his cabinet, bringing in 18 ministers, including 10 parliamentarians. This move comes hours after Amman and Israel reached an agreement in Washington to define future trade and economic relations between the two countries, as our correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi reports. To clarify the reasons for this cabinet reshuffle, we contacted the Jordanian prime minister and asked him about the significance of the timing of the reshuffle and its connection with the Washington agreement.

[Al-Majali] I do not think it has any connection with that. The real significance is that we feel that the entire region is passing through a very delicate situation regarding the possibility of the existence of a new regional order and the much talked about Middle East market. Therefore, the executive and legislative authorities must cooperate and the whole nation must take a common stance.

['Awn] Mr. Prime Minister, Syria has maintained that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is a violation of the principle of comprehensive peace. Is it really?

[Al-Majali] Sir, first we do not think that Syria feels like that. We and Syria are in full agreement. We have always maintained each of the four tracks has its own peculiar character, and therefore the acceleration on any of the tracks is natural. We are fully committed to a comprehensive solution on all fronts, including, of course, the Syrian Golan Heights. This is a basic principle of our policy. We believe in a comprehensive solution. But the speed of movement on any track is good for the other tracks and not harmful to them.

['Awn] You were quoted as saying in a parliamentary session that the Syrians have reached an agreement with the Israelis on the principle of withdrawal from the Golan. On what did you base your statement?

[Al-Majali] The statement was based on remarks made here and there, particularly the statements made by the American sponsor, his repeated visits, and the possibility of another visit. All these indicate that there is a possibility of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. We hope it will happen, we strive for it, and we desire it because we think it is good for all of us: for Syria and for us.

Further al-Majali Comments

NC0906105894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] First, let us shed light on the new cabinet reshuffle in Jordan.

[Al-Majali] When it was first formed, this government, which I had the honor of leading, began a new experiment, what we call separation of executive and legislative powers, and no one from the House of Representatives took part in it. The experiment was very good. The non-presence of a deputy in that government or in any government should not be interpreted as preventing deputies from being ministers. This is totally wrong. There is a large number of deputies who have the capability of performing successful ministerial work.

Under the new reshuffle, 10 new deputies from various parliamentary blocs and various provinces in Jordan joined the cabinet. Eight new members also entered the cabinet so this is a cabinet reshuffle, not reformation.

We always believe in a measure like in the military; a group or platoon is in the trenches and is replaced by another group and the process is repeated. We have a good rotation process and most times it bears fruit. Of course, it has some negative aspects, but it also has good, positive aspects.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But surely you have a specific view of a new phase that Jordan will witness in light of this new cabinet reshuffle.

[Al-Majali] As you know, the entire region is experiencing a delicate phase covering a regional order and the so-called Middle Eastern market. Al these issues are delicate and require very close cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities and require the whole country to stand together and envisage a good future for the state.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Moving from the cabinet reshuffle to the peace talks, there is a Jordanian-Israeli negotiations committee holding its sessions in Washington to discuss the border and participation in water resources. Let us learn about Jordan's view put forth by that committee.

[Al-Majali] As you know, Jordan signed an agenda with Israel on 14 September last year and the agenda is clear, especially in the bases on which it relied. Of course, the basic topics of that agenda include the withdrawal from the Jordanian territories, our right to water, and the issue of refugees and the displaced, in addition to various other topics. It was agreed to list these issues in an agenda to enable us to negotiate on them and the bilateral talks assumed this task. Even in the negotiations on the four tracks, the Arab brothers agreed that each track has its own characteristics and thus its progress should be different but what is important is that all tracks should make the final line.

Before the negotiations stopped because of the Hebron incident, there was an agreement to form a tripartite U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli committee to discuss a host of issues, including those listed on the agenda. We received information that Israel is now ready to form a joint committee to demarcate the border correctly prior to withdrawal from the Jordanian territories and committees to discuss legitimate shares of water. These two basic points have always been on the agenda but we were unable to initiate their discussion seriously. Through the tripartite committee we are now able to do that and hence came the meetings in Washington to emphasize these points and put the agreement into a mechanism [last word in English]. According to the agenda, the two sides should agree on a mechanism and phases for the negotiations to proceed on each topic.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israeli suggests that a new road linking 'Aqabah and Elat be opened. What is Jordan's stand on this proposal?

[Al-Majali] There are many points on the agenda that stipulates that all parties should cooperate in projects in the region that are beneficial to all sides concerned. These projects include, for example, a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and a road linking Egypt and Jordan via Elat. These are projects for the future and the discussion now is on whether they can or cannot be examined. There is an agreement to study these projects.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Moving on to Arab issues, what preoccupies the Arab arena is the current situation in Yemen. What is Jordan's view on what is happening in Yemen?

[Al-Majali] Jordan's stand is firm and has not changed since the problem began when the president and vice president asked His Majesty King Husayn to help them resolve the issue between them. A dialogue committee was formed, the Amman accord was concluded, and what happened afterward is known.

We believe in unity. We have an absolute faith in unity and do not believe in separation because a separation that takes place in Yemen might take place in any other Arab country. We are against this. We are not against the south at all but against the idea of separation. We support unity and oppose infighting no matter what the reason.

Prime Minister Denies Making Statements on Syria

JN0906063294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Asked by the Jordanian News Agency about statements attributed to him regarding the occupied Syrian Golan, published by the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH yesterday, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has asserted that the statement attributed to him was untrue and distorted.

Dr. al-Majali added: We reject any attempts to distort our strategic relations with sisterly Syria. We deal with Syria with full confidence in the unity of both our objective and fate, and also out of the desire to reach a comprehensive peace that will safeguard the rights of all of us and secure the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the peace process is based.

Dr. al-Majali said: We look forward to discussing all issues of mutual interest during the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which will be held in Amman at the beginning of next week in order to achieve the policies of the two leaders; namely, His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, in a way that will achieve the utmost degree of cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

Information Minister on Agreements With Israel

JN0906101494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 09-10 June 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by a staff correspondent with agency dispatches]

[Excerpt] Jordan on Wednesday [8 June] described as highly important and significant the agreement the Kingdom reached with Israel to start negotiations on demarcating their borders and water sharing, issues the Jewish state has been avoiding since the begining of the Arab-Israeli peace process in September 1991.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said: "We have affirmed one basic principle: The ceasefire lines will change to international and recognised borders, which stress the unity of Jordanian territories, preempt any designs on them and preserve the Jordanian entity."

He said the two sides had based their agreement on two main points: That the British mandate coordinates will be the reference for defining the border and that the borders will be delineated on the ground.

Dr. al-'Anani was talking to reporters after two days of Jordanian-Israeli talks in Washington under the auspices of a trilateral commission which also includes the United States produced the agreements.

The information minister said another major breakthrough was an agreement to work out a fair division of the waters of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers now being exploited by Israel at the expense of Jordan. Regional and international conventions will be the basis for determining the share of each side, he said.

"We also agreed to look at the Jordan Valley project as a comprehensive project to discuss the development of its infrastructure and to develop large projects which will be discussed for the future," he said.

"We agreed to conduct a number of studies that will pave the way to establish large development projects in the area," Dr. al-'Anani said.

In this context the major project is a desalination project linked to a Jordanian-proposed canal connecting the Red Sea to the Dead Sea and this proposal will be studied closely, Dr. al-'Anani said.

The minister said a Jordanian agreement to accept the presentation of an American paper on the Jordan Valley did not mean that the Kingdom was dropping its reservations over launching such projects before the border and water issues are settled. "In the framework of studies at the present time, we cannot think of such projects except after reaching an agreement on the border issue," Dr. al-'Anani said.

Regarding the economic issues, especially in light of the agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in April on banks and trade, the Jordanian side clarified the implications of such an agreement on the Jordanian economy, because it limits, to a certain degree, Jordan's freedom of exporting its goods to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr. al-'Anani said.

The Israeli side agreed to the expansion of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories and also agreed that if there were any proposals in the future to issue a Palestinian currency, Jordan would be notified before hand to give it sufficient time to take measures to protect its currency.

"It also became clear that there were issues to be discussed trilaterally: A proposal was made calling for a Jordanian-Israeli- Palestinian economic committee to discuss some of the issues in order to develop it and to finalise it in a proper way," Dr. al-'Anani said.

"In my opinion, these are very important results for Jordan because it achieves and contributes to asserting the geographic and demographic unity of Jordan," the minister told reporters.

The delegates from Israel and Jordan signed three documents setting out a detailed agenda for further talks.

The first text concerns water, energy and the environment, the second addresses security and the third concerns the border and other territorial issues.

The security text pledges that Israel and Jordan will draw up security arrangements and discuss confidence measures between the two sides.

The two countries decided to begin negotiations on their border dispute in July, together with talks on development projects.

The final border decision must refer to the boundary drawn up in 1922 by Britain, which then held the Palestine mandate, when it set the borders for Transjordan.

Jordan hopes to regain a strip of about 360 square kilometres from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea, as well as two square kilometres south of Lake Tiberias in the Jordan valley. [passage omitted]

Paper: No Ties With Israel Before Rights Restored

JN0806075094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Restoring Territorial and Water Rights First"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, Jordan is extremely eager to render the peace process a success on all tracks to help achieve just and comprehensive peace.

Nonetheless, Jordan will not accept any peace. For the peace that Jordan is striving to achieve is the peace that would return all rights, be they territorial or otherwise, to their lawful owners. While negotiating with Israel within the context of the tripartite economic committee, which also includes the United States, Jordan will not accept to embark on economic coordination with Israel before the latter gives it back its territories, before its borders with Israel are demarcated, and before its usurped water rights are restored.

As His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly said, Jordan will not abandon a single iota of its territorial or water rights. In the same vein, Jordan will not conclude a separate peace agreement with Israel.

This firm Jordanian position is widely known to Israel, the U.S. Administration, and the fraternal cordon states.

Consequently, when it insists on economic or noneconomic coordination with Jordan before the latter restores its territorial and water rights, and before all issues that need to be addressed are resolved, Israel spikes the peace process and shows a desire to thwart the negotiations.

If Israel actually seeks economic coordination with Jordan, or any other Arab party for that matter, it must recognize the legitimate rights of the Arab sides, and subscribe to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of trading land for peace, as well.

It must comply with UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and express a willingness to withdraw from the occupied Jordanian territories, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. This must precede any talk of economic or noneconomic cooperation with this or that Arab country. But when it persists with its ground, sea, and air attacks on fraternal Lebanon, destroys its cities and villages, and damages the houses of Lebanese citizens, Israel creates insurmountable difficulties in the path of peace and pushes for a military escalation in the region—a development that could paralyze the peace process and demolish its very foundations.

Minister on Telephonic Links With Autonomous Areas

JN0806094694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Minister of Communications Dr. Tariq al-Suhaymat has reiterated Jordan's willingness to fully cooperate and coordinate with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the areas of post and communications.

In statements to AL-RA'Y, the minister added that Jordan's Ministry of Communications has supplied the PNA with a copy of the Ministry's structural organization, as well as job descriptions of the Ministry's components, sections, and institutions at the request of PNA Minister of Post and Communications 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, who held talks with several Ministry officials in this regard. Al-Ashhab also obtained details about the Jordanian telephone system.

Dr. al-Suhaymat added that the Palestinian side requested to benefit from the Jordanian expertise so that Palestinian cadres may learn from them. He noted that Jordan will provide the Palestinian self-rule authority with experts, technicians, and engineers in the field of postal services and communications. Additionally, Jordan will provide training to several PNA employees working in this field at Jordanian institutions.

Al-Suhaymat indicated that the talks with al-Ashhab also touched on effecting a direct telephonic linkage between the Jordanian telephone network and the network expected to be established in Gaza and Jericho. He asserted Jordan's readiness to implement this linkage once the PNA requests this.

When queried further on the issue, Dr. al-Suhaymat said that Jordan will effect a direct telephonic linkage with the Palestinian side only in Gaza and Jericho at present, and in the West Bank later. He noted that there will not be any kind of telephonic linkages with or through Israel pending the outcome of the peace talks. He added: "It is premature to speak of a linkage with Israel at present."

Dr. al-Suhaymat indicated that Jordan has officially and repeatedly urged the world states not to relay telephone calls from Israel to Jordan.

With respect to cooperation in the field of postal services, the minister of communications said that Jordan, in talks with the Palestinians, has expressed its full readiness to transport the mail coming from various parts of the world to the autonomous areas via the King Husayn Bridge and vice versa in accordance with the norms and methods currently in force.

Dr. al-Suhaymat added that the Palestinian self-rule authority must obtain an international telephonic code for its communications so that it may gain complete independence from Israel in this regard. He went on to say that this would be less costly than using the Israeli network.

The minister indicated that Jordan will witness great developments in the field of communications once peace is achieved. He added that the Communications Corporation is making enormous efforts to implement its projects over the next few months to prepare for the start of the 21st century.

Minister Reaffirms Jordan's 'Neutrality' on Yemen

PM0806132294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Information Minister Stresses Amman's Neutrality in Yemeni Crisis"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani has said that Jordan's neutral position on the Yemeni crisis has not changed since the crisis began, contrary to what some media services say.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he added that "Jordan was aware early on of the dangers of an armed conflict in Yemen. It made great efforts with the two parties to the Yemeni crisis until we held a conference to sign the Pledge and Accord Document, which was tantamount to a defusing of the fighting and a step toward dialogue and a peaceful understanding. It was in response to a written request from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid."

Finance Minister Sees Continuing Economic Growth

JN0606100094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The government's decision to raise by 10 percent the basic salaries of civil servants aims at improving the living conditions of government employees and giving them incentive towards better and more productive work, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Dr. al-Majali said the government was also seeking reform in its public administration system and improve the performance of employees.

Dr. al-Majali's statement came less than 24 hours after the government's announcement that the 437,000 serving government workers, military personnel and pensioners will get a raise of 10 percent that would not be less than JD [Jordanian dinars] 10 per month. The increase takes effect on July 1, 1994.

Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said the decision was taken to give the civil servants a raise "within the government's financial means." But, he added, a special committee of experts is continuing to study other measures intended to improve government employees' conditions and raise their efficiency and performance.

Mr. Qammuh told a press conference on Sunday that the government hoped the committee would end its study and submit recommendations to the govenrment in the next few months.

Another committee had been entrusted with studying matters related to state-owned lands on which govenrment housing units could be set up to benefit government employees, he said. This committee would be given long-term soft loans provided by the state, the minister said.

Mr. Qammuh said that while the 10 percent increase benefits government civil and military personnel and the pensioners, employees excelling in their performance would be granted other allowances depending on the degree of their progress and their production.

Mr. Qammuh said the economy was moving ahead "with firm strides towards further growth and stability."

Economic indicators in the first few months of this year point to continuing economic growth in various sectors of production and service despite the "wait-and-see situation in view of the prevailing circumstances in the region," Mr. Qammuh said.

"We hope to see all Jordan's economic objectives achieved with the completion of the economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," the minister said, adding that the accomplishments of the past two years had exceeded expectations.

Mr. Qammuh said that exports rose from JD 213 million in the first four months of 1993 to JD 292 million in the first quarter of this year and imports declined from JD 697 million in the first four months of 1993 to JD 644 million in the same period of 1994.

The deficit in the fiscal budget has narrowed from JD 69 million to JD 21.7 million in the first four months of this year, largely due to a decline in expenditure and a rise in revenues, the minister said.

Mr. Qammuh said that an upsurge in the construction business provides another indicator of the improvement of the general economic situation.

In the first four months of last year 2,889 building licences were issued against 4,232 in the same period of this year while the area built during this period this year amounted to nearly a million square metres, up from 635,000 square metres in the same period of last year, the minister said.

Mr. Qammuh noted that intial issues in Amman Financial Market (AFM) in the first four months of 1994 amounted to JD 79.2 million compared to JD 48.1 million in the same period of 1993.

Mr. Qammuh said the government expects Jordan to achieve a 5.5 percent growth at current fixed prices in the gross domestic product (GDP). Inflation, he said, is expected at five percent. A reduction in the fiscal budget by 6.4 percent over the 1993 figures is also expected.

A reduction in the budget deficit from 6.4 percent of the gross domestic product in 1993 to 5.4 percent this year is also expected, Mr. Qammuh said.

The government expects a reduction of the deficit in the current balance of payments from JD 648 million in 1993 to JD 546 million this year, he said.

Central Bank Governor on Need For 'Belt-Tightening'

JN0806090294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian economy performed well in the first five months of 1994 and could be expected to register a growth between five and six percent during the year, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad al-Nabulsi said Tuesday.

Briefing the local media in an informal meeting at the CBJ, the governor also said the Kingdom had to adopt more rationalisation and belt-tightening measures with a view to gaining optimum benefit from the utilisation of resources.

Dr. al-Nabulsi cited as examples the amount the government spends on higher education with little direct returns and the indirect subsidies offered to consumers in the water and energy sector and said revenue collection should also be improved.

Exports improved by 20 percent and imports showed a 15 percent decline in the first quarter of this year when compared with the corresponding period in 1993, but the trend could change during the rest of the year, Dr. al-Nabulsi said. He expected inflation to remain under five percent.

Some sectors of the economy did show stagnation, but other sectors performed better than expected to make up for the shortfall and project an overall growth, he said.

The nature of investments is in "the right direction" and expatriate remittances have also improved, the CBJ governor said.

Jordan hopes to open debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of creditor governments later this month on

repayments maturing until the date of an agreement, he said, adding that the amount covered would be in the region of $420 million including principle and interest.

The Kingdom would also be seeking to reschedule dues to the Paris Club maturing in another 18 months—until the end of 1995.

He estimated that the Kingdom would have to pay around $400 million for streamlining the expected agreement with Paris Club.

Jordan has scored impressive success by implementing the economic restructuring and recovery programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but there are shortcomings in adopting corrective measures in the water and energy sector, Dr. al-Nabulsi said, noting that the water and electricity tariffs did not actually reflect the cost of production and distribution.

Jordan is expected to receive $180 million in assistance from the IMF and World Bank in three years to help its balance of payments, and the Kingdom has already received the first tranche of $14 million, he said. However, the delays in implementing the corrective measures were also delaying further payments.

"It is not simply a matter of consumption," he said. "We have to adopt major measures in the water and energy sectors in terms of realistic tariffs."

In the banking sector, the CBJ was switching to "indirect controls" rather than direct measures such as ceilings on credit facilities and restrictions on the activities of commercial banks. The objective, Dr. al-Nabulsi said, is to influence the policies and decisions of commercial banks in a manner that would serve the economy and ensure the best utilisation of available resources.

So far this year, commercial banks have remained within the indirect limitations of credit facilities that the CBJ is forced to adopt as recommended by the IMF. It was the first time in several years that the limits were respected and adhered to, avoiding problems for the authorities to regulate the situation.

Developed countries use securities and bonds as a tool to control excess liquidity and inflation, Dr. al-Nabulsi pointed out, adding that Jordan adopted the certificates of deposit system eight months before it was supposed to have started it under the IMF programme.

The relative slump in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) cannot be taken as an indicator of the economy's performance since individuals and institutions motivated by speculative interests are the main players in the bourse, Dr. al-Nabulsi noted, adding that the stock market cannot be seen as a productive sector contributing to national growth.

The CBJ had no direct role to play in the AFM except perhaps controlling the involvement of commercial banks and financial institutions in portfolios.

At the same time, Dr. al-Nabulsi noted that the decline at the AFM was around four to five percent since the beginning of the year and described it as insignificant compared with the 30 percent drop posted in the Tel Aviv exchange and the general recession in other stock markets around the world.

The CBJ will continue to maintain restrictions on transfers in order to prevent capital flight, but does not plan any additional regulations, the governor said. Such regulations only apply to residents, he added.

Jordan is prepared to face any eventuality resulting from possible negative economic and monetary measures adopted by the Palestinian self-rule authority, including the possible issuance of a Palestinian currency, he said.

The logic in the situation is that any such measure will affect both Jordanians and Palestinians on both sides of the river, and, as such, it is unlikely that Jordan would face any serious problems, whether in terms of capital flight or even the possible dumping of the Jordanian dinar, Dr. al-Nabulsi said.

"It is not a zero-sum game," where one will lose everything to the benefit of the other, he said, noting that a majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories maintain their savings in the Jordanian dinar.

Dr. al-Nabulsi noted that Jordanian commercial banks have started operating in the occupied lands after a 27-year hiatus and this offers the CBJ direct monitoring of the situation there.

Commercial institutions may transfer Jordanian money to the occupied territories as economic development of the area picks up momentum, but the presence of the Jordanian banks is the best means for the CBJ to exercise its options to defend the Kingdom's monetary system, he added.

In any event, "we are well prepared to deal with any eventuality," he said.

The CBJ governor said between JD 350 and JD 400 million remain in circulation in he occupied territories.

There are many solutions to the issue and the best is an integration of the Jordanian and Palestinian currencies as and when the Palestinians issue their own tender, Dr. al-Nabulsi said.

In the meantime, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has agreed that the self-rule authority in the occupied territories would use the dinar in all their internal official dealings, including salaries and taxes, he said.

Buwayz Hopes Christopher Will Bring 'New Proposals'

NC0906053594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed to the editors' doyen, Milhim Karam, that Lebanon refuses to equate resistance operations and the occupier's acts of aggression. He noted that resistance leaders' maturity and wisdom have foiled the Israeli attempt to strike at the internal front.

Buwayz voiced his hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come to the area with clear and new proposals.

Israeli Air Force Attacks Hizballah Target in South

TA0806131394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked a terrorist target in the Jabal Safi area in south Lebanon, which served as a Hizballah operational site. The pilots reported accurate hits. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says that all our planes returned safely to base.

Southern Radio Reports Kidnappings by Hizballah

NC0906075994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Gunmen from the subversive organization Hizballah kidnapped six Lebanese and a retired Syrian soldier in the Ba'labakk area last night. It has been learned that members of the so-called Emergency Battalion [katibat al-tawari'] of Hizballah kidnapped three of them from their homes after mistreating them. They kidnapped the other four in public places. Lebanese and Syrian security agencies are holding contacts with Hizballah to seek the release of the those kidnapped.

Syria Forces Captives' Release

NC0906092894 Paris AFP in English 0849 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, June 9 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas released six Lebanese men and a retired Syrian soldier hours after kidnapping them in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon, Syrian military officials said Thursday [9 June]. They were freed overnight Wednesday after the Syrian military command in the al-Biqa' Valley threatened to arrest Hizballah militants in retaliation, the officials said.

The men were seized in the Ba'labakk region after three of them were seen taking photographs outside the home of Hizballah's former secretary general Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. Two of the men were identified as Lebanese expatriates who had returned to their home villages after long stays in the Gulf state of Qatar and the United States.

Security sources said the seven could have been taken in a Hizballah sweep to investigate the kidnapping on May 21 of pro-Iranian guerrilla leader Mustafa al-Dirani who was seized from his home in a raid by Israeli commandos. Moslem fundamentalist leaders have charged that the commandos were assisted by local accomplices. Hizballah has been on alert since June 2 when Israeli warplanes killed 32 guerrilla trainees on a base near Ba'labakk.

Israel hopes al-Dirani can supply vital information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad shot down in south Lebanon in 1986.

Hizballah Paper Views al-Dirani Case

NC0806200094

[Editorial report] Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic devotes most of its 27 May 1994 edition to reactions to the abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani, a leader of the Believers Resistance, by a "Zionist" commando unit. On pages 2, 3, and 17 the paper publishes approximately 3,500 words of remarks by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah at a news conference held on 24 May to lash out at the kidnapping operation.

On page 5 the paper publishes an approximately 550-word report on a statement issued by the Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance [Hizballah's parliamentary group] condemning the kidnapping of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, "a symbol of the Believers Resistance." The statement says: "This cowardly operation was a blatant defiance and an impudent provocation against the resisting Lebanon. It also clearly reveals the policy of indifference being pursued by the authority regarding the country's primary issues, foremost being the political and military confrontation of the Zionist designs of hegemony."

On the same page, the paper publishes an approximately 250-word report on an address delivered by scholar Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, chairman of the Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance, during a memorial service. Having accused the state of inaction on the abduction of al-Dirani, al-Sayyid says: "The Lebanese people are no longer living under the protection of a state because it is incapable of achieving security and safeguarding the people's dignity."

On page 6, AL-'AHD publishes an approximately 3,000-word text of a statement issued by representatives of the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist and Islamic parties and forces at the end of their meeting held at the invitation of the Believers Resistance to discuss the Israeli "act of piracy" in kidnapping al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, a leader of the Believers Resistance; the date of the meeting was not given. Among those attending the meeting was Hizballah Political Bureau Chairman al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil and representatives of "the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Socialist Labor Party, the Nasirite Popular Organization, the Union Party, the Islamic Amal Movement, the Congress

Party, Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Islamic al-Da'wah Party in Iraq, the Islamic Group, the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, the detainees follow-up committee, the Muslim Ulema Council, the Jabal 'Amil Ulema Committee, the secular conference, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine." The conferees issued a statement, which says in part: "The participants demand that the Lebanese Government adopt a stance commensurate with the popular position expressed by the conferees to withdraw from the settlement negotiations, which continue to represent a cover for ceaseless Zionist crimes and attacks." The statement adds that "the conferees stress the need for the authority to adopt the option of resistance in the face of the enemy's plans and to support our resisting people in all fields and domains for the sake of liberating the land and safeguarding the holy places."

On page 7 AL-'AHD publishes approximately 1,000 words of statements by various Lebanese officials and deputies in reaction to the kidnapping operation. His Eminence Shaykh Zuhayr Kanj, member of the Muslim Ulema Council, "notes that the timing of the operation, just five days after Warren Christopher's visit to the region, indicates the State Department's involvement in the operation." He blames the local authority and the Lebanese Government for negligence toward "the act of piracy." Kanj calls on the prime minister to "resign immediately because he is no longer capable to run the country and because his policies have proved futile."

On page 9 the paper publishes an approximately 700-word interview with Deputy al-Hajj Muhammad Yaghi, member of the Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance, place and date not given. He condemns the kidnapping of al-Hajj al-Dirani and says: "We must tell the Lebanese authorities that after the Zionist act of piracy that dereliction and negligence on the part of the government toward the basic issues, including the confrontation of the Zionist enemy's schemes and plots, are unacceptable policies for which the government must be held accountable." Yaghi adds: "It is useless to lodge a complaint with the Security Council as long as the U.S. Administration is the international power broker and also the unrepentent supporter of Zionist terrorism." He adds: "The only useful recourse is to support the resistance with every available means because resistance is the only appropriate reply to the continuing aggression and arrogance."

On the same page, AL-'AHD publishes an approximately 2,000-word political and security analysis by Ibrahim Shams-al-Din of the kidnapping operation. The writer refutes the Israeli objectives and excuses behind the kidnapping operation, noting that the kidnapping will not give Israel any information about the whereabouts of Israeli navigator Ron Arad, simply because al-Dirani knows nothing about the Israeli pilot. The writer then discusses the "principles that should be upheld by the government to eliminate the loopholes that contributed toward the success of the terrorist operation." Shams-al-Din adds: "It is necessary that the government change the list of its priorities and give precedence to the issue of liberation. The government should close the gaps through which the Zionists penetrate the homeland's security and sovereignty." Shams-al-Din goes adds that "the Lebanese authority should take sufficient interest in the cause of the Lebanese detainees held in Israeli prisons. The government should investigate the recent kidnapping operation and unveil the identity of the collaborators, who, according to various stories, guided the enemy forces to the landing spot and to roads leading to the house of al-Dirani."

Russian Army Chief of Staff Briefs al-Asad on Talks

JN0806164594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received General Mikhail Petrovich Kolesnikov, Russian Armed Forces chief of staff, at the People's Palace at 1030 today. Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Army and Armed Forces chief of staff, attended.

The president was briefed by Gen. Kolesnikov and Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi on the talks the Russian chief of staff has held in Syria. Talks dealt with bilateral cooperation between Syrian and Russia.

Kolesnikov, al-Shihabi Sign Accords

JN0806182294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] The Russian delegation led by Mikhail Petrovich Kolesnikov, the Russian Armed Forces chief of staff, left Damascus today. President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation for two full hours.

The Russian Armed Forces chief of staff signed with his Syrian counterpart, Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, 12 documents related to cooperation in the technical military field.

Mikhail Kolesnikov, head of the Russian delegation, termed this as a new starting point in Russian-Syrian military cooperation.

These documents were signed against the background of the agreement on military cooperation in the technical field that was signed in April between Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas and Russian Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets. This agreement has paved the way for the resumption of military cooperation between the two countries, especially since the USSR was the main exporter of arms to Syria before its collapse.

Lithuanian Parliament Speaker Arrives

JN0806210394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. Ceslovas Jursenas, speaker of the Lithuanian parliament, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this evening on a four-day visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, and Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in the Assembly.

Mr. Jursenas said upon arrival that he was glad to be visiting Syria. There have been no parliamentary relations between our two countries previously, he noted. During this visit, we want to get to know Syria first-hand and boost bilateral ties, particularly in parliamentary affairs, Mr. Jursenas told SANA.

This is the first time we have visited an Arab state since our independence. Our nation, he added, welcomes contacts and relations with Syria in particular and the Arab states in general. He emphasized that his country is particularly interested in the Middle East and the ongoing peace talks. Lithuania, he stated, supports the return of the occupied territory to its rightful owners.

The Lithuanian parliament speaker concluded his statement by saluting Syria and its people.

Official Urges U.S. To End Israeli 'Aggression'

PM0606114094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Velayati Concludes Talks in Damascus Which He Describes as 'Very Positive'"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—[Iranian Foreign Minister] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus yesterday for his country after a two-day visit to Syria during which he delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also held meetings with Hizballah leaders at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Before departing from Damascus International Airport Velayati told reporters that his visit and talks in Damascus had been "very positive" and "extremely friendly." [passage omitted]

At another level, a Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel believes that by its aggression against Lebanon "it can bring about changes that would achieve what it wants and complement what it achieved in the Gaza-Jericho agreement." The official added that "the Israelis have forgotten—or, rather, they deliberately pretend to have forgotten—that the attacks will not get them the peace they are seeking. Because the foundations of peace are clear and the principles and terms of peace are more than clear. And anyone searching for peace must be fully committed to implementing UN resolutions. Aggression and threats of more extensive aggression will bring about nothing but further tension and will destroy the last opportunity to salvage the peace process, which has reached an impasse as a result of the Israeli positions opposed to any real peace.

The Syrian official pointed out that Tel Aviv—as all the facts indicate—is seeking not only to cause strain in the situation in the region, but also to push the region toward an atmosphere of war.

The Syrian official said that the United States and the international community are urged to put an end to the Israeli aggression aimed not only against Lebanon, but the U.S. initiative and the peace process as well.

Papers View Upcoming Christopher Mission, Israel

JN0906105394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace Process and the U.S. Problem," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region, saying: What is important is to know how far the peace process has gone, and to evaluate the efforts made by the full partner in this regard. The United States has chosen to play the role of a full partner. This U.S. commitment has placed responsibility on the shoulders of the U.S. Administration. It has made it incumbent on the U.S. Administration to honor the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process it launched. That is, this commitment requires the U.S. Administration to uphold the relevant UN resolutions, and the principles of international legitimacy, as well.

In this regard, there is no room for anything called neutrality, or the role of a mailman. For the United States does not have responsibilities only in its capacity as the actual sponsor of the peace process, but also in its capacity as the greatest power on Earth at present, and as a member of the UN Security Council, not to mention its responsibilities with regard to UN resolutions. Given all this, there is no room for neutrality. The United States can either be a supporter or an opponent of international legitimacy.

The paper adds: We in Syria support international resolutions and charters. In the same vein, we support the principles and objectives of the peace process. We have agreed to participate in this process on the basis of the parameters the United States proposed to regional players. We have cooperated to make this process a success, because we actually look forward to attaining a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper indicates that Israel, which is opposed to international legitimacy, has defied the international community and rebelled against it. Worse still, it has violated the resolutions of the world body. Hence, the problem lies in the Israeli position. The paper adds: We are not asking the United States to side with either Syria or the Arabs. What we are demanding is that the United States support the terms of reference of the peace initiative it has launched. Moreover, we are asking it to uphold international resolutions. Any departure from this would be a concession to those who have rebelled against such legitimacy and acted against peace.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: If the U.S. Administration is to play its role as a full partner in the peace process in a convincing manner, it should not succumb to the lame Israeli reasoning, which is grounded in usurpation, occupation, and aggression. This is a must if the region is to be rid of the vicious circle of escalation, tension, wars, and bloodshed.

Under the headline "From the Peace Opportunity to War," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel, which has constantly managed to avert any progress in the stalemated peace talks, has exacerbated the situation and driven the region to the point of explosion under the very nose of the entire world community in order to kill the current peace opportunity once and for all.

The paper believes the constant and escalating Israeli aggression against Lebanon poses the greatest challenge to the international community, which has seen how Israel has dealt successive blows to the peace process, which in turn has turned into crossword puzzle entangled by Israeli conditions, excuses, and aggressive practices.

The paper urges the international community and the United States to put an end to Israeli belligerence and arrogance, to Israel's disregard for international resolutions and the international community's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. It also calls upon them to immediately halt all forms of Israeli aggression.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Unless the international community shoulders its responsibilities by deterring Israeli aggression, this aggression will push the region in the direction of an explosion, whose results are unpredictable.

In another commentary entitled "Where is Justice," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The situation in southern Lebanon has seen a serious deterioration. It has become a hotbed of tension that threatens to drown the region in an endless whirlpool of violence and chaos, thanks to the constant Israeli attacks on southern Lebanese villages and towns.

The paper explains that the continuation of this serious situation in southern Lebanon, caused by the escalation of constant Israeli attacks, will cause the peace process to collapse and dash all the hopes for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The paper holds Israeli leaders responsible for this uncomfortable situation, and also for the failure of the stalemated peace process to bear fruit.

Jordanian Minister's Denial of Golan Remarks Reported

JN0906080194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has denied the statements attributed to him regarding the occupied Syrian Golan, published by the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH yesterday [as heard], saying that these statements were untrue and distorted.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency yesterday, Dr. al-Majali added: Jordan rejects any attempts to confuse its strategic relations with sisterly Syria. Jordan

regards Syria with absolute faith in common objectives and destiny to reach a just and comprehensive peace that will safeguard the rights of all of us, and ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the peace process is based.

Paper Attacks Jordanian Calls for Israeli Accord

JN0806142894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Damascus today strongly criticized the Jordanian paper AL-RA'Y, which in recent articles has called on the Jordanian Government to conclude an agreement with Israel as soon as possible to make sure Jordan is not isolated and its role is not marginalized, especially since Arab coordination among the frontline states does not exist, as the paper put it.

In its editorial today, the government newspaper, TISHRIN, said that these opinions are preparing the way for the peddling of a really bad plan. The paper added that such a plan would isolate Jordan from the Arab world and tamper with its national unity. These calls are made by hired writers to inject Zionist poison into Arab awareness with the objective of pushing it toward capitulation.

The official Syrian newspaper refuted the opinions of the writer of the article, who said that Syria has abandoned Jordan, that it is only considering a separate solution, and that an agreement between Syria and Israel is imminent. The paper said that these statements are prematurely seeking to distort the essence of the Syrian position. This is because Syria has never called for throwing oneself into Israel's arms, and has always announced its commitment to the principle of a comprehensive solution and the need for the implementation of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and for Israel's withdrawal to the pre-4 June 1967 border in return for comprehensive peace.

The paper wondered: What progress has been achieved to make the Jordanian writer call for expediting the signing of a separate agreement with Israel before it is too late? The negotiations with Israel are still moving in a vicious circle. The U.S. secretary of state has admitted this and said that the gap is too deep between the two stands. Even Rabin said that matters on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are at a stalemate.

TISHRIN said: Arab coordination does exist, and Syria was the first to insist on coordination among the Arab parties. Even Jordanian officials have recently spoken, following King Husayn's visit to Damascus, about the importance of coordination and integration with Syria. This means that the writer of the articles considers the statements of Jordanian officials on their adherence to the principle of a comprehensive solution and coordination with the Arab parties mere maneuvering for local audiences for the time being.

Aide Deplores 'Terrorist' Israeli Actions

PM0706102894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus Renews Its Rejection of 'Majdal Shams First' Plan"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, Cairo, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Damascus has informed Washington of its rejection of the Israeli peace plan conveyed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent shuttle tour of the region, known as the "Majdal Shams First" peace plan.

Well-informed sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Israeli plan includes a three-phase Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights; the first phase includes a withdrawal from three out of five villages on the Heights. [passage omitted]

The sources pointed out that Israel does not want to implement an integrated peace process at once on all Arab-Israeli tracks. It is seeking to conduct partial and phased implementation on each track individually, with a transitional phase after the implementation of each peace plan.

Well-informed Syrian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Washington held meetings the evening of the day before yesterday with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel in preparation, the sources believe, for a discussion of the issue of Christopher's return to the region to continue his efforts regarding the peace process. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a Syrian official held Israel responsible for increasing tension in the region and pushing the peace process toward collapse.

The official said that "Israel continues to deliberately escalate the situation and work to create a climate and conditions for continuing the war and exposing the Lebanese people's lives to danger and annihilation—which threatens to destroy the peace process." The Syrian official stressed "the resoluteness of the Lebanese and Syrian position in the negotiation process, and no one can separate the two tracks."

The official added that "Israel's aggressive practices against Lebanon have exceeded all limits. No one can remain silent about them, they must be confronted. Israeli aggression must be confronted." The official urged the international community to put an end to the policy of murder and destruction which has become an integral part of Israel's strategy for the occupation of southern Lebanon.

The official described Israel's practices in southern Lebanon as terrorist actions, pointing out that this puts the region as a whole in a troubled and serious atmosphere and brings to mind the atmosphere of the war Israel is once again seeking. The official said: "Thus a prompt

move is needed to stop Israeli practices, provocations, and the positions adopted by Yitzhaq Rabin's government," adding that Israel would be very mistaken if it believes that it can continue to have a free hand to strike as it wishes. It must realize well that Lebanese resistance is stronger than Israeli aggression, because it is a legitimate right and supported by international legitimacy." [passage omitted]

Press Says Israel Killing 'Last Opportunity' for Peace

JN0506105594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's press commentaries address the objectives of the ceaseless Israeli attacks on Lebanon, and Israeli officials' threats to launch a large-scale aggression.

Under the headline "The Future of the Peace Process," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The peace process has become a target for Israeli officials, who were compelled to attend the Madrid conference in the first place, thwarted the Washington talks, disavowed the essence of the U.S. peace initiative, and made a deliberate effort to scuttle U.S. efforts.

The paper adds: Judging by Israeli acts, one can safely say that Israel's acts run counter to the principles and objectives of the peace process. For, the shelling and bombardment of villages and towns in southern Lebanon, the displacement of Lebanese civilians, the destruction of their property, and the killing of innocent people in premeditated barbarous air raids have become the order of the day for Israeli officials. As for their political discourse on peace, it is merely deceptive talk designed to delude the world public. For, the peace talks have not registered the slightest progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. As for the Gaza-Jericho accord, it has pushed the opportunities for peace further away, and dealt a painful blow to the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN urges the international community, headed by the United States, to intervene to put an end to Israeli aggression, which is targeting Lebanon, just as much as it is targeting the U.S. initiative and the peace process.

The paper wonders: Has not the region been pushed further away from the desired just and comprehensive peace? Why has United States failed to push the peace process in the right direction, given that it has committed itself to play the role of a full partner and honest broker?

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The failure of the international community to put the necessary pressure on Israeli leaders to make them comply with its resolutions and principles has encouraged them to perpetrate further massacres and crimes, and to demonstrate total disregard for the peace process and international legitimacy, as well.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: Given the serious Israeli escalation of the military situation in southern Lebanon, the international community must have become fully convinced that the Rabin government holds the peace process in contempt. For judging by its words and deeds, one reaches the conclusion that this government seeks to frustrate the hopes for a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, and to create further obstacles and difficulties that can only exacerbate the situation and render it more precarious.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Israeli military buildup in southern Lebanon, as well as the constant Israeli attacks there make it impossible for observers to identify any single Israeli positive step. This is certainly not an indication of an Israeli desire to achieve peace in the full sense of the word.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The Tel Aviv government must understand that the party that is seeking peace cannot work to stoke fires in southern Lebanon, nor can it resort to military power and arrogance to force its dictates and conditions on others. Nor can it, for that matter, flaunt its defiance of the relevant international resolutions, and the principles cherished by the international community. For peace has its own well-known components and requirements. Once the Rabin government declares its commitment to these components and requirements, and renounces its policy of provocation and aggression, then, and only then can there be talk of just and comprehensive peace. But, given the current state of affairs, one can say that Israel is as far as it can ever be from peace. Worse still, nobody can trust the sincerity of its peace claims.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the same issue, reiterating that the continuous Israeli attacks on Lebanon are indicative of Israel's aggressive character, and also of its disregard for regional security and peace, and the entire world community as well.

The paper believes that this Israeli policy has been supported by the position of the international community, represented by the United Nations and the UN Security Council in particular. This is because Israel is the only party in the world that escapes punishment whenever it perpetrates aggressions against the Arabs, kills innocent civilians, and destroys their houses.

In this regard, the paper notes the massacre Israel perpetrated on Thursday [9 June], which resulted in the death of scores of Lebanese civilians. Israel has persisted with its aggression and massive military buildup on Lebanese territory, the paper adds.

The paper wonders: Will Israeli acts lead to just and comprehensive peace in the region?

The paper explains that had Israel been actually seeking peace, it would have, at least, declared a commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process; that is, it would have expressed a willingness to implement the relevant international resolutions, which provide for complete and full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Nonetheless, what we, along with the entire world community, have seen is Israel doing its best to keep the region away from true peace.

The paper concludes by saying: The requirements, components, and obligations of just and comprehensive peace are too clear to be obscured. They have been recognized and identified by the entire international community. He who wants to see the region enjoying security, stability, and peace must, first and foremost, make a total commitment to implementing the relevant international resolutions. As for the policy of aggression and threats, it will only create further tension, and consequently kill the last opportunity for saving the peace process.

Radio Views Israel's Conduct in Lebanon

JN0606154194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli leaders are trying to group contradictory things together. They also believe they can convince the world that they are saying and doing the right things. These leaders are carrying out flagrantly savage attacks on Lebanon and destroying homes over the very heads of their peaceful civilian inhabitants. At the same time, they allege that these attacks are not directed against the peace process and will not affect it.

The Israelis are also carrying out acts of piracy and abduction and encroaching upon the sovereignty of a UN member state. Moreover, they daily threaten Lebanon with an open war. In their statements, however, the Israelis are trying to convince the world that all this does not mean they have abandoned the peace process or the objective of obtaining peace. But how can a reasonable man be convinced that the large military buildup in the occupied part of southern Lebanon as well as the threats, the continued shelling of southern Lebanese villages and towns, and the beating of war drums can be in harmony with the atmosphere of peace?

It is impossible to put summer and winter together. Israel's contradictions and allegations will convince anyone. If the Israelis believe they can mislead the world and portray their savage attacks as a defense of Israeli security, they are undoubtedly deluded. This is because the actions of the Lebanese national resistance are a result, and not a cause, of occupation. Thus, as long as the occupation continues, the resistance will continue because it is the Lebanese people's right, as acknowledged by all international laws and norms.

If Israel is working to achieve its security, as it claims, all it has to do is to comply with UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425 which calls on Israel to unconditionally withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon. It has become well known that Israeli security has never been threatened and that the opposite is actually true. In other words, Arab security is currently threatened, and for more than half a century the Arabs have been subjected to Israeli aggression. Moreover, the Arab territories are still under occupation at a time when Israeli aircraft, artillery, tanks, and warships bombard and destroy Arab villages, towns, and houses in Lebanon and other Arab territories and kill Arabs. So, it is not the opposite that is taking place.

For those who want further confirmation and information on who is the aggressor and who is the victim, and who is the executioner and who is the victim, the records of the United Nations, specifically the UN Security Council, are replete with resolutions condemning Israel for its aggressions against the Arabs

From this premise, the security excuse is not convincing. Israel is trying to use this card to cover up its real stand and reason for escalating its aggression against Lebanon. On one hand, Israel wants to bring the utmost pressure to bear on Lebanon to confuse it and force it to submit to its conditions which Lebanon rejected at the negotiation table. Israel wants to separate Lebanon from Syria and to end coordination between them as part of its policy of dealing with the Arab parties one after the other, thus making it easier for it to impose its conditions and will on them and to drag them into partial agreements and separate deals that would secure its hegemony and control over the land it occupies.

What is more important is that by carrying out aggression and threatening to wage an open war against Lebanon, Israel would thus resort to the most effective means for torpedoing the peace process because a just and comprehensive peace limits its moves, checks its designs for expansion, and demarcates its borders which, as yet, have been demarcated only on the basis of the well-known Zionist concept of the borders from the Euphrates to the Nile.

By igniting the situation in Lebanon, Israel brings the region to the brink of war and makes it move far from the peace which the entire world seeks to establish in this region whose people have been afflicted with wars and destruction since Israel's establishment.

It goes without saying that the absence of a deterring punishment of the agressor, the adoption of two yardsticks, and the failure to adopt a firm stand toward the recurrent Israeli attacks against the Arabs, encourage Israeli leaders to continue threatening the opportunities for peace, and push the region to the brink of war.

Had the international community been as firm and as decisive as it was in other areas in confronting the aggressor and forcing it to implement UN resolutions, Israel would not have continued its defiance of the

international community, and peace in the region would have been closer than at any other time.

Israel is exposing peace and security in the region to unfathomable dangers. The international community, specifically the sponsors of the peace process, should take the initiative before the opportunity is lost and peace is endangered.

Paper Says Israel Pushing Region to War

JN0706073594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Dangers of Reckless Israeli Behavior," TISHRIN says in its editorial today: After the signing of the Cairo agreement on the implementation of the Oslo deal, Israel increased its aggression in southern Lebanon, intensified its daily shelling of residential areas there, and carried out a glaring act of piracy when it kidnapped a Lebanese citizen, thus violating all international agreements and human rights.

TISHRIN adds: It is worth noting that that terrorist operation took place under the direct supervision of Yitzhaq Rabin himself, something which proves that the Israeli political and military decisionmaking is controlled by a terrorist mentality. Moreover, Israel launched a savage raid on the Ba'labakk area, and is now amassing more troops and equipment and escalating its expansionist, aggressive language against Lebanon.

The paper indicates that through that behavior Israel is seeking to escalate regional tension, kindle war and aggression, and ruin the peace climate in order to undermine the peace process and destroy all its bases. Israel is also seeking to undermine the process of national reconciliation in Lebanon, thus reaffirming that it sought and still seeks to control Lebanon and its resources. The paper stresses that separate deals neither achieve peace in the region, nor provide peace and stability for Arabs or restore their rights. Nor have they ended Israeli intransigence, arrogance, and aggressive, expansionist behavior.

The paper says that Israel has violated the principles of the peace process and is now pushing the region to war and confrontation, thus defying the will of the international community and the U.S. initiative for peace in the region.

The paper reiterates that Syria and the Arabs have joined the peace process to restore the occupied Arab territories and the usurped Arab rights.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: If the international community and the United States in particular are interested in the success of the peace initiative, they must work to curb the unruly aggressive Israeli behavior and to pressure the Israeli Government into compliance with the principles of a just, comprehensive regional peace.

Israeli Policy in Lebanon Seen as 'Threat'

JN0806144394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: No doubt, each Israeli attack on Lebanese territory and citizens is also an attack on international legitimacy, a violation of international law, and a threat to the regional peace process.

By escalating its attacks in such a provocative manner against Lebanon and its citizens, villages, and residential areas, Israel not only shows disregard for the international community's will, but also deliberately complicates and aggravates the regional situation and pushes this region toward the brink of an abyss so that Israel can implement its schemes, maintain its occupation of the Arab territories, and evade the obligations of a just and comprehensive peace.

Israel still refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Beyond this, Israel is still approaching the peace process as an occupying force that adheres to the gains of occupation from an arrogant and dominating position.

Israel has proven this through its hostility toward the peace process and through its maneuvering and tricks. By escalating its attacks on Lebanese territory, Israel once again confirms that it will not abandon its aggressive and expansionist ambitions designed to annex the Arab territories and drag the Arabs into making concessions and relinquishing their own rights by mixing the regional cards and evading all that would make Israel comply with the terms and components of the peace process.

More than two and a half years have passed since the peace process began and there has been nothing yet to indicate that Israel is ready to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Added to this is what continues to take place both in and with regard to the occupied Palestinian territories before and after the Oslo agreement.

All events and developments before and after the Oslo agreement confirm that Israel only needs a group to follow its orders, implement its instructions, and take part in repressing the Palestinian people on their own territory, which iw exactly what the Lahd mercenaries in southern Lebanon are doing against the Lebanese people and their townships and villages.

The savage Israeli shelling of al-Biqa', the Israeli military buildup in the occupied part of southern Lebanon, and the Lahd troops' joining of the Israeli forces in shelling

the southern Lebanese villages, townships, and cities have all revealed an important fact that no one should forget; namely, that the aggressive Israeli character, which practices abductions, killings, and destruction, is placing the entire region in a turbulent and feverish atmosphere and in a volatile situation, especially since these practices recall the atmosphere which Israel wants.

As Israeli aggressions has exceeded all limits, it is necessary to confront this belligerence through an international response that will end the policy of killings and destruction. Moreover, the international community, which is eager to maintain the peace process, should take the initiative and stop the continuous Israeli encroachments and oblige Israel to comply with the UN resolutions.

Israel's refusal to implement Resolution 425 and other UN resolutions, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, is a flagrant rejection of international legitimacy and disregards the principles of international law through aggravating the situation in southern Lebanon, spreading the atmosphere of war in it, and continuing the shelling of southern Lebanese villages, townships, and cities.

Hence, confronting the aggressive Israeli character is not only a duty and right for the Lebanese people—who have emphasized the importance of, and need for, continuing the resistance and rallying around it—but is also an Arab and international responsibility that first stems from the need to expose and foil the Israeli objectives and pressure Israel into complying with the terms and components of the peace process, led by full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Syrian-Lebanese Committee Studies Orontes River

JN0606123594 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 May 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—The Joint Syrian-Lebanese Water Committee held a meeting at the Ministry of Irrigation yesterday attended by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

Later, Khuri made a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent on the topics which were studied by the committee. He said: At its previous meeting in Beirut on 3 February 1994, which was devoted to studying the subject of building a dam on the Orontes River, the Joint Water Committee set up a joint technical committee to explore the river course from the source to Lake Qattinah in order to inspect the existing gauge station, determine the new stations required, and study the flow of water both at the surface and underground levels for the longest period possible.

Khuri added: "The joint technical committee had carried out its exploration of the Orontes River course, held several meetings to review its findings, and submitted its report to the main committee."

Khuri said: "Yesterday's meeting was devoted to studying the facts contained in this report. It was agreed to adopt the technical committee's recommendations on gauging the annual average flow, revamping and operating the existing gauge station on the Lebanese side, and studying the building of a hydraulic station on the same side. This is in addition to the adoption of several other recommendations."

The secretary general explained that the Joint Water Committee decided to devote its next meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Beirut on 20 June, to studying the question of current and future water needs to be supplied by the Orontes River course and to begin accumulating data on the needs to be supplied by the southern al-Kabir River.

Khuri expressed the hope that all studies on the Orontes River would be completed prior to proposing future solutions concerning the exploitation of the river and consequently the signing of a Syrian-Lebanese agreement on whatever is reached in this regard.

Iran

Velayati on Egyptian Ties, Islam, UK, Iraq

NC0906073494 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 10

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Nur-al-Huda Zaki in Cairo; date not given—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister views the discussions held by the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Cairo as a positive development in the progress of NAM. He says the countries of the South and the Third World realized at the conference that the strengthening of NAM will be in their interest. I asked him: What role is left to the movement now that the Eastern camp has collapsed? He replied: It is true that the Eastern camp has collapsed and gone, but subservience continues. Nonalignment means non-subservience. If we believe in this idea, we will notice that because one of the blocs collapsed, the other bloc is trying to strengthen its control and hegemony. Iran strongly believes in the need to maintain NAM.

[Zaki] Mr. Minister, you met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. What did you discuss?

[Velayati] We had a good dialogue with the Egyptian side. There is increasing understanding between Iran and Egypt on the need to cooperate on regional and international issues.

[Zaki] Did you discuss the exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Tehran?

[Velayati] We did not discuss that.

[Zaki] Did you touch on the relations between Tehran and Khartoum?

[Velayati] We did not discuss that subject either.

[Zaki] Have you discussed Egypt's accusations that Iran supports the extremist Islamic trends in Egypt?

[Velayati] We discussed the subject of the Islamic trends as a whole and as a general principle. But the accusations against Iran were not discussed, and were not raised in the first place.

[Zaki] But what is your comment on these accusations?

[Velayati] In general and in principle, the revival of Islamic values and thought cannot be ignored by anyone; nobody can or wants to ignore this fact. The signs of such revival are clear everywhere, so much so that even the pro-secularism in the Islamic world are now introducing their talk with "in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate." I personally have seen this. I have also noticed that the number of Muslim women who wear Islamic dress has increased in recent years. This is not a sign of extremism, but the Western countries are trying to stop this trend. When Muslims return to their religion and somebody says that Iran forced them to do so, then this is an insult to them.

[Zaki] Excuse me, we are not talking about Islam as a religion and a way to worship. We are discussing political Islam and Iran's position on the extremist Islamic groups that are now confronting the civil authorities in some Arab countries. What is Iran's position toward those groups?

[Velayati] Islam is a religion of politics, and without politics there is no Islam. Those who argue against our opinion are politicizing Islam but in their own way. We do not believe Islam is the religion of staying in mosques. The Prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, established a practical and actual government. If we want to follow the Prophet's way, we cannot tell those who govern in Mecca: You govern and we pray. But if we want a new Islam, then that is a different story.

That the Islamic countries are now returning to Islam reflects Muslims' disappointment with Western values. Iran did not tell Muslims to [sentence incomplete as published].

[Zaki] But some governments are actually accusing Iran of supporting internal unrest in their countries.

[Velayati] When governments of some countries face problems on the domestic scene, the easiest way is to accuse foreign quarters.

[Zaki] Is there a relationship between Britain's position toward Iran and Iran's Islamist policy?

[Velayati] Britain's position toward us is certainly linked to the Islamic position. The Islamic countries are increasingly worried at Britain's stance toward the Muslims in Bosnia. The Islamic majority in the world is convinced that Britain's bad position toward the Bosnian Muslims has led things to the edge of tragedy and prevented a tangible solution to the problem.

[Zaki] Why did you not play an effective role—you are a major Islamic country?

[Velayati] Concerning Bosnia, we did all we could. Iran was behind all pro-Bosnia moves in the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement.

[Zaki] I am talking about military assistance.

[Velayati] I will quote the Bosnian president: "Iran extended all possible assistance, and proposed sending military aid. After that, THE WASHINGTON POST reported that Iran is providing military assistance to Bosnia..." and the responsibility lies with the newspaper." [quotation marks, ellipses as published]

[Zaki] Mr. Minister: You have met with the Iraqi foreign minister. Are we going to see a promotion of Iranian-Iraqi relations?

[Velayati] The issue with Iraq is different. We are engaged in complex [murakkabah] talks; we are moving toward reducing problems and then solving them.

[Zaki] When will you visit Baghdad?

[Velayati] After a month, or perhaps 40 days.

Greek Foreign Minister Papoulias Begins Talks

Arrives on 2-Day Visit

LD0706160894 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias heading a delegation arrived here Tuesday [7 June] on a 2-day official visit and was greeted at Tehran Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon his arrival, Papoulias termed as "solid and strong" the relations between Tehran and Athens and called for their expansion. Papoulias said he as the foreign minister of Greece and head of European Unity's Council of Ministers, would hold talks with Iranian officials on expansion of bilateral relations and on various international issues. He expressed hope that the outcome of his talks in Iran would be "excellent".

The Greek foreign minister is carrying two messages from Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou for Iranian authorities.

Meets With Velayati

NC0806071594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Among the topics discussed during yesterday's meeting between the foreign ministers of Greece and of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran included the further expansion of the Islamic Republic's relations with the European Union [EU] and Greece, the Balkan crisis, and the expanding relations between Tehran and the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus.

During the meeting Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and the current head of the EU, underlined the need to further expand relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EU—something that can play an effective role in solving current problems in various parts of the world. The Greek foreign minister stressed that the EU's stance on the issue of the three Persian Gulf islands is that bilateral talks between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] should be strengthened.

At this meeting Velayati also welcomed the expansion of Tehran's relations with the EU and with Greece and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, a country which enjoys stability in the region, plays a fundamental role in political equations. The foreign minister added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported a peaceful solution of the misunderstandings with the UAE on the basis of its 1971 agreement with that country. He once again emphasized that regional security could not be possible without the cooperation of the Persian Gulf littoral countries.

Attends Press Conference, Departs

LD0806162394 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said here Wednesday [8 June] that talks between Iranian and European officials would help remove any obstacle in the way of relations between Iran and the European Union (EU).

Greece is now trying to improve Iran-EU relations and help them have "good" ties, the Greek foreign minister said in a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He departed Tehran after the conference.

The minister expressed hope that the present impediments to the relations between some European countries and Iran would be removed.

Referring to the Bosnian issue, Papoulias said despite problems facing Europe, it is now trying to solve the issue. However, he admitted that the question has remained unsolved for europe.

Papoulias, terming the Bosnian issue as a European problem, maintained that the issue could be solved through peaceful means and that there would be no military solution.

EU member states and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in the latest meeting on the Bosnian crisis reached the conclusion that the Bosnian issue could be resolved solely through negotiations between the warring sides.

Velayati termed as "positive" Papolias talks with Iranian officials which he said focused on international issues, especially relations between EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran and on growing ties between Tehran and Athens .

On the issue of human rights, Velayati said that Iranian officials, based on their Islamic beliefs and ideology, believed that human rights should be respected by all countries.

He added that the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Cairo approved that human rights should be observed by the third world countries with regard to their beliefs and ideologies.

Papoulias, who arrived here on Tuesday for a two-day official stay at the head of a high ranking delegation, conferred with president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Papoulias and Velayati in two rounds of talks discussed expansion of Tehran's relations with the EU and Greece, the crisis in the Balkans and issues relevant to Central Asian and Caucasus republics.

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